



KNUCKLES: THE RETURN

PART 1 OF 4

#9

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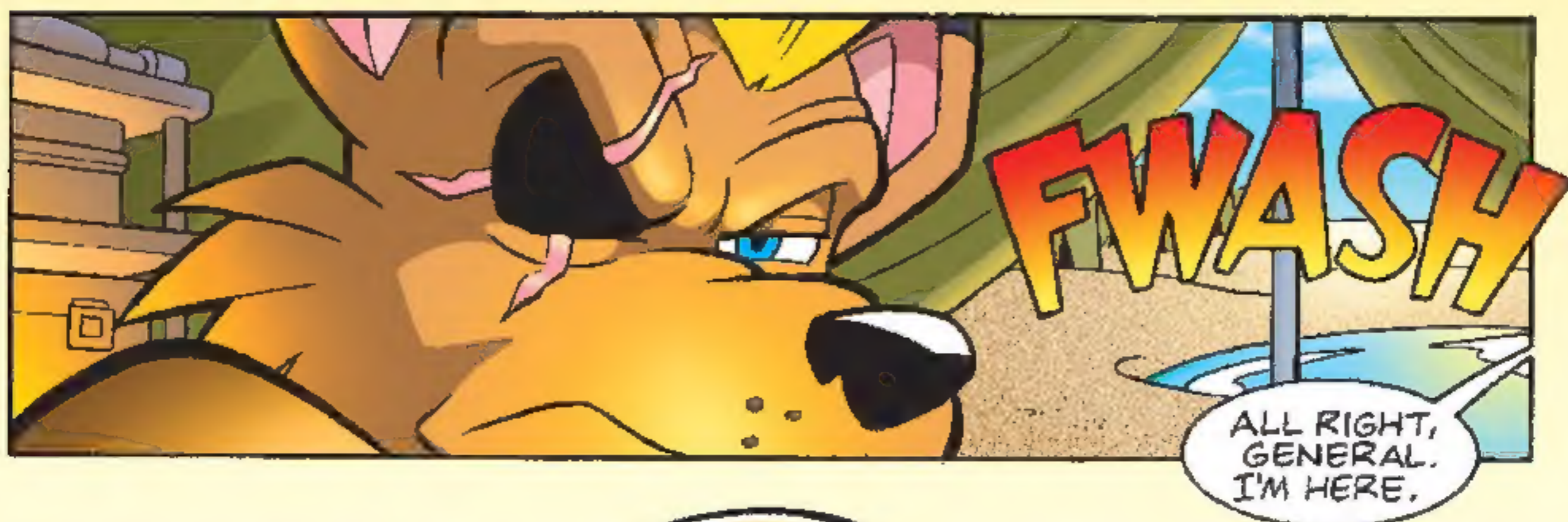
DIRECT EDITION

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*Tram
Yardley!*
MINZENES

Welcome to the planet Mobius – a world unique and beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Knuckles the Echidna, guardian of Angel Island, defends his friends and homeland from the forces of evil!



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ALWAYS BLUNT, THAT ONE!

THE FILES, PLEASE.

RIGHT-O, BOSS!



I CALLED YOU HERE BECAUSE YOU LIED TO ME.

LIED?

ONE OF MY SCOUT TEAMS FOUND THE LAB OF DR. FINITEVUS. THIS IS A HARD COPY OF HIS NOTES ON "PROJECT ENERJAK: REBORN". IT DETAILS EVERYTHING, FROM START TO FINISH.



CATWEAZLE
LOUD-MOUTH

GEN. HELMUT VON STRYKER
LEADER OF THE DINGOES



IT'S BEEN ENLIGHTENING, AND IT PROVES THAT EVERYTHING WASN'T YOUR FAULT.*

*"EVERYTHING" BEING THE EPIC FROM STH#180-184



I STILL
ATTACKED
BLINDLY.

I RESPECT
THAT, GUARDIAN,
BUT WE'RE EVEN
IN MY EYES.



I LOST
MY SON, YOU
LOST YOUR FATHER.
BOTH OUR PEOPLES
WERE REDUCED TO RAGS
AND EXILED FROM
THE HEART OF THE
ISLAND. ASHES AND
DUST IN EQUAL
MEASURE.

THAT SAID,
YOU WERE THE
ONE HE USED, SO
I'M GIVING YOU
FIRST DIBS ON
TAKING HIM
DOWN.

I--
THANK YOU,
GENERAL.



ONE
OF MY MEN
WILL TAKE
YOU THERE,
GOOD
HUNTING.



AND WITH
ANY LUCK, THE
TWO OF YOU WILL
FINISH EACH
OTHER OFF FOR
ME.

ANGEL ISLAND--
SHRINE ISLE

WOW!
LOOK,
LOOK!

IT'S
D-DOWNUNDA!

**RAY THE
FLYING SQUIRREL**
CHAOTIX JUNIOR
MEMBER

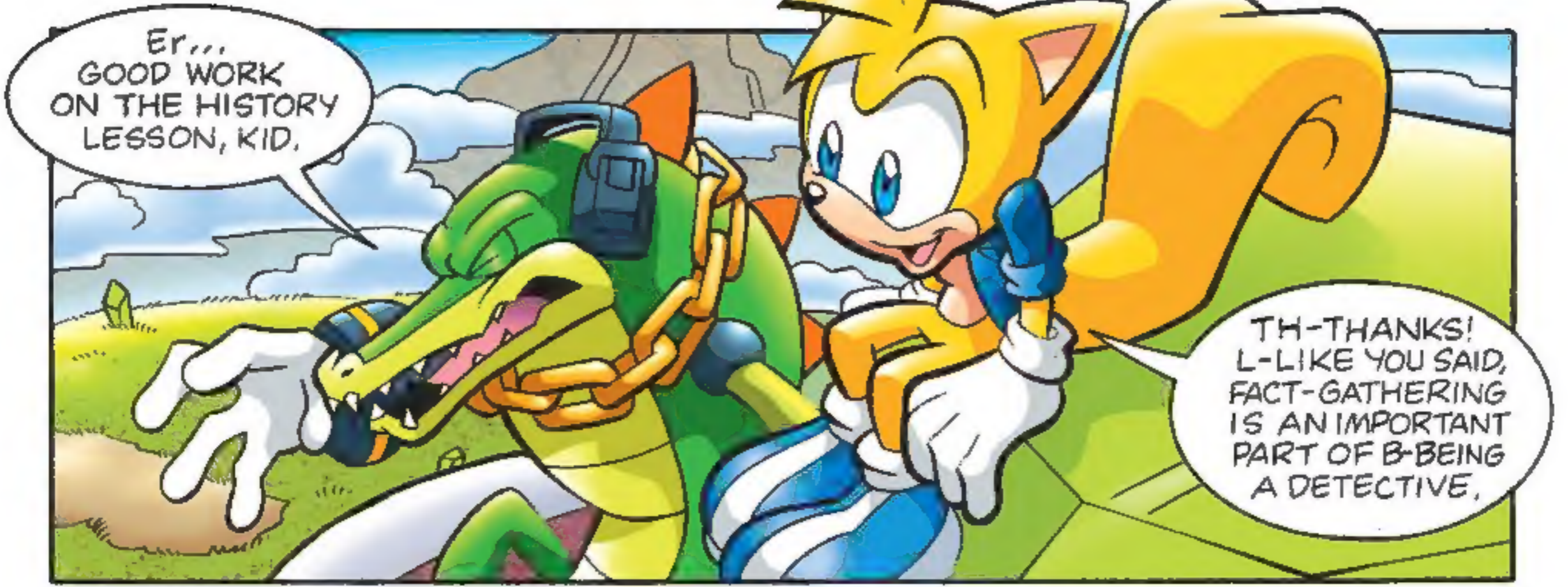
TH-THAT'S
WHERE ANGEL
ISLAND F-FIRST
CAME FROM,
Y'KNOW?

KNUCKLES'
ANCESTORS USED
THE C-CHAOS
EMERALDS TO
B-BRING THE
WHOLE ISLAND
INTO THE
SKY!

YEAH,
AND I
COULDN'T LEAVE
THERE FAST
ENOUGH WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE.

Y-YOU
CAME FROM
D-DOWNUNDA?

**VECTOR THE
CROCODILE**
CHAOTIX DE FACTO
LEADER



Er...
GOOD WORK
ON THE HISTORY
LESSON, KID.

TH-THANKS!
L-LIKE YOU SAID,
FACT-GATHERING
IS AN IMPORTANT
PART OF B-BEING
A DETECTIVE.

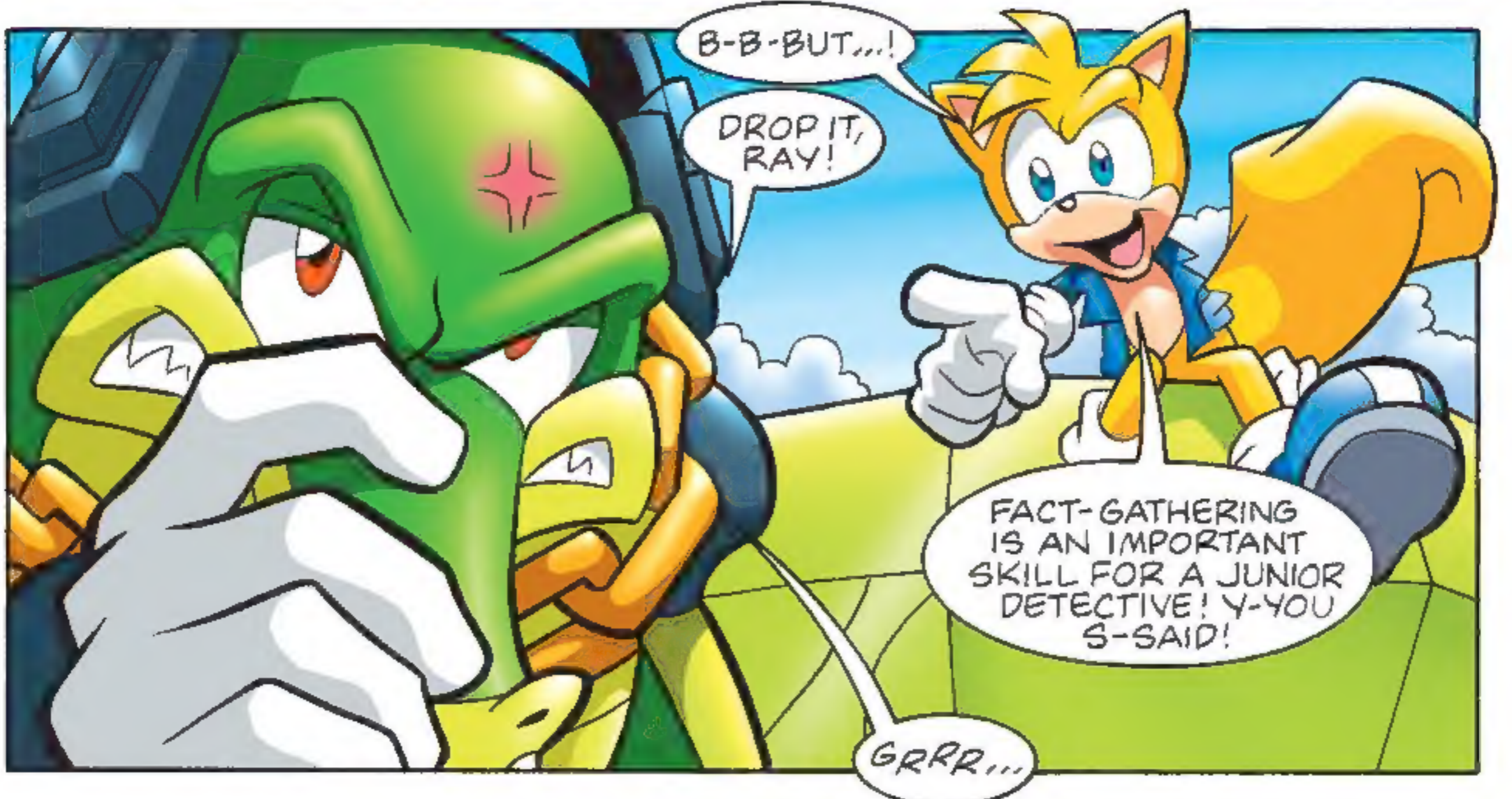


RIGHT
YOU ARE!
YOU'RE A
PROMISING
JUNIOR
CHAOTIC.

TH-THANKS!
S-SO WHAT'S THIS
ABOUT YOU AND
D-DOWNUNDA?



DON'T
PUSH IT,
KID.



B-B-BUT...!

DROP IT,
RAY!

FACT-GATHERING
IS AN IMPORTANT
SKILL FOR A JUNIOR
DETECTIVE! Y-YOU
S-SAID!

GRRR...



THERE'S NOT MUCH TO TELL. I WAS HATCHED THERE, BUT I NEVER KNEW MY FOLKS.



I HOOKED UP WITH A CREW OF ORPHANS, RAN AROUND THE OUTBACK, HAD SOME LAUGHS...



AND... THEN THINGS WENT SOUTH. I BUILT A GYROCOPTER* AND GOT OUT OF THERE. THAT'S IT.

*WE SAW IT IN STH#120



AND IF YOU WANT ANYTHING MORE, YOU CAN BUZZ OFF!

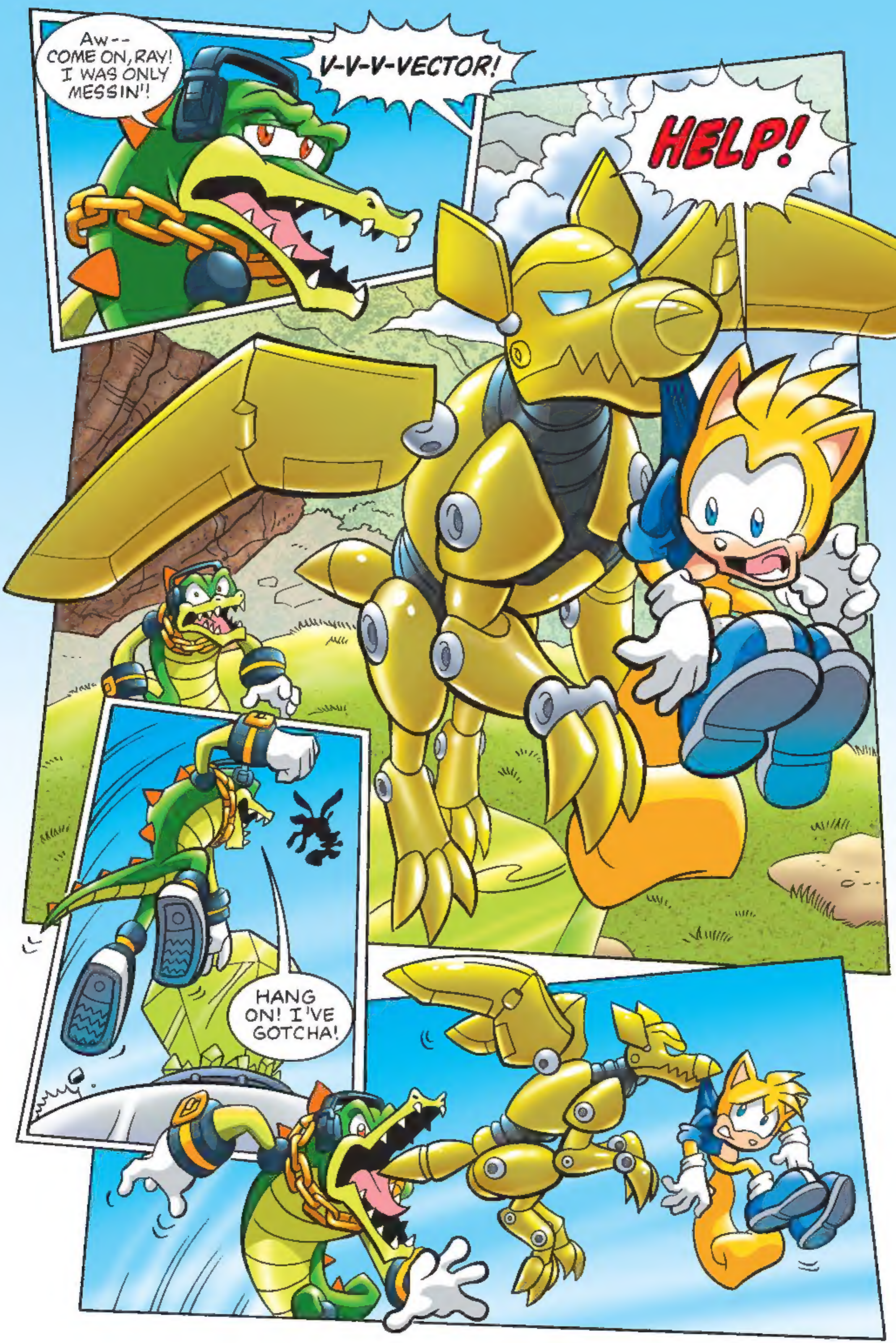


...RAY?

Aw--
COME ON, RAY!
I WAS ONLY
MESSIN'!

V-V-V-VECTOR!

HELP!



HANG
ON! I'VE
GOTCHA!



TH-TH-THANKS!
W-W-WHAT
WAS THAT?

I
DUNNO...

SMASH!

...BUT
THERE'S A
WHOLE BUNCH
MORE,

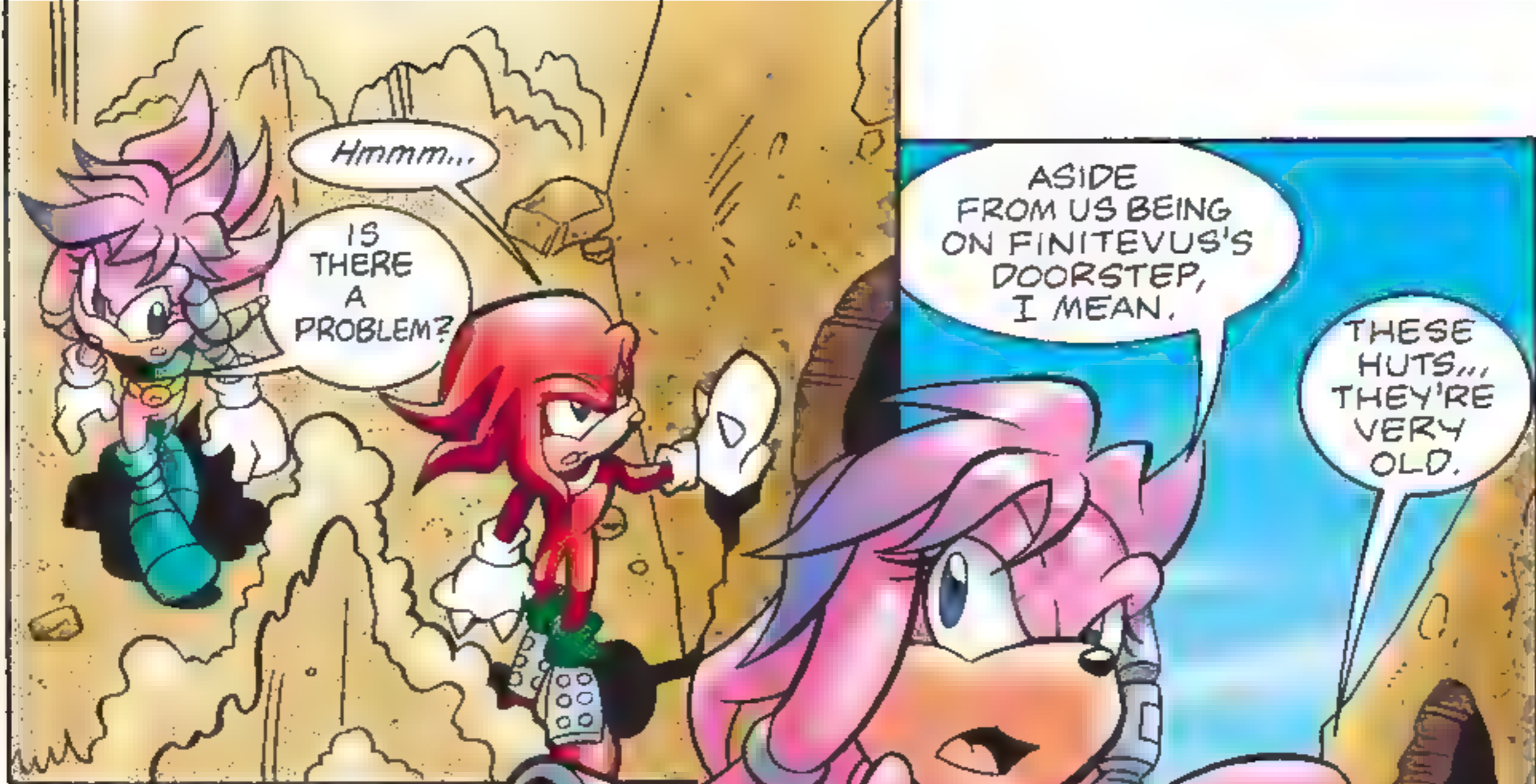
SANDOPOLIS
DESERT

THIS
IS WHERE
FINITEVUS
IS HIDING
OUT?

SEEMS
A LITTLE...
OVERT, DON'T
YOU THINK?

YOU HAD
FULL RUN OF
THE ISLAND FOR
YEARS. HOW COME
YOU DIDN'T KNOW
ABOUT THIS
PLACE?

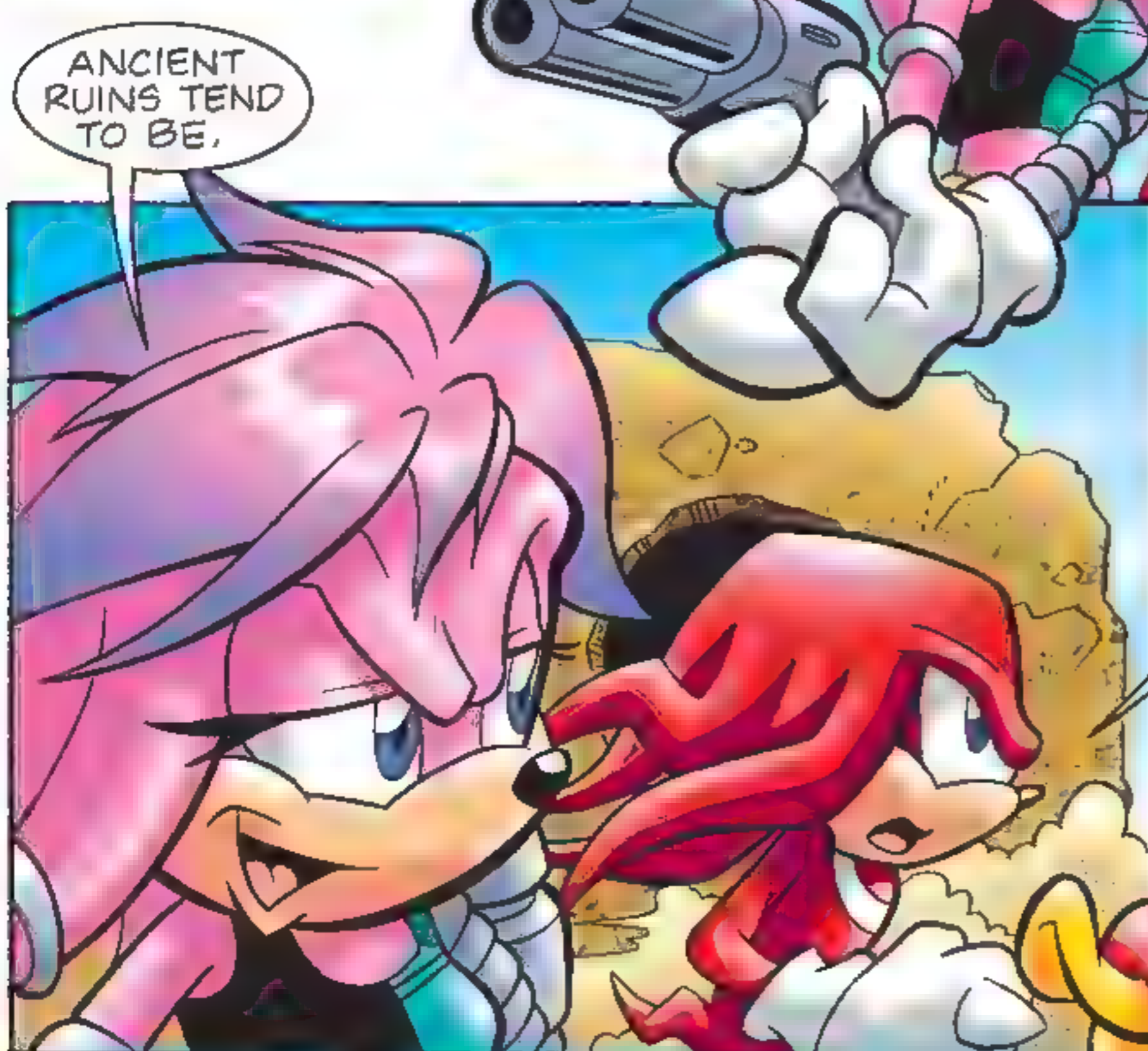
I HAD
PROBLEMS
FACING THE
DESERT WHEN
I WAS LITTLE.



Hmmm...
IS THERE
A
PROBLEM?

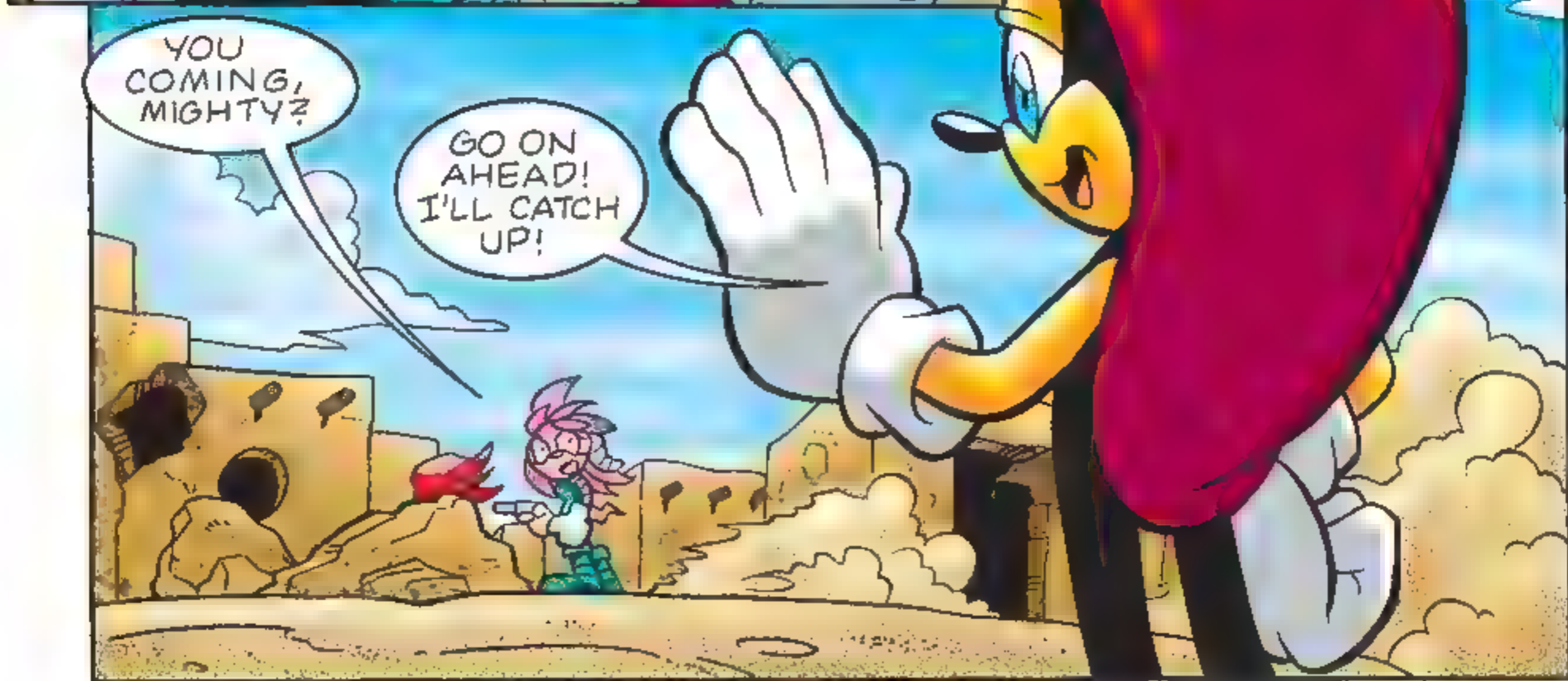
ASIDE
FROM US BEING
ON FINITEVUS'S
DOORSTEP,
I MEAN.

THESE
HUTS...
THEY'RE
VERY
OLD.



ANCIENT
RUINS TEND
TO BE.

BUT THEY'RE
NOT ECHIDNA-MADE,
LET'S KEEP GOING.
I WANT TO SEE
MORE.



YOU
COMING,
MIGHTY?

GO ON
AHEAD!
I'LL CATCH
UP!



THEY MIGHT NOT RECOGNIZE YOU, HARRY, BUT I DO, YOU'VE HARDLY SAID A WORD DURING THE TRIP, WHAT'S WRONG?



"WHAT'S WRONG" HE ASKS...

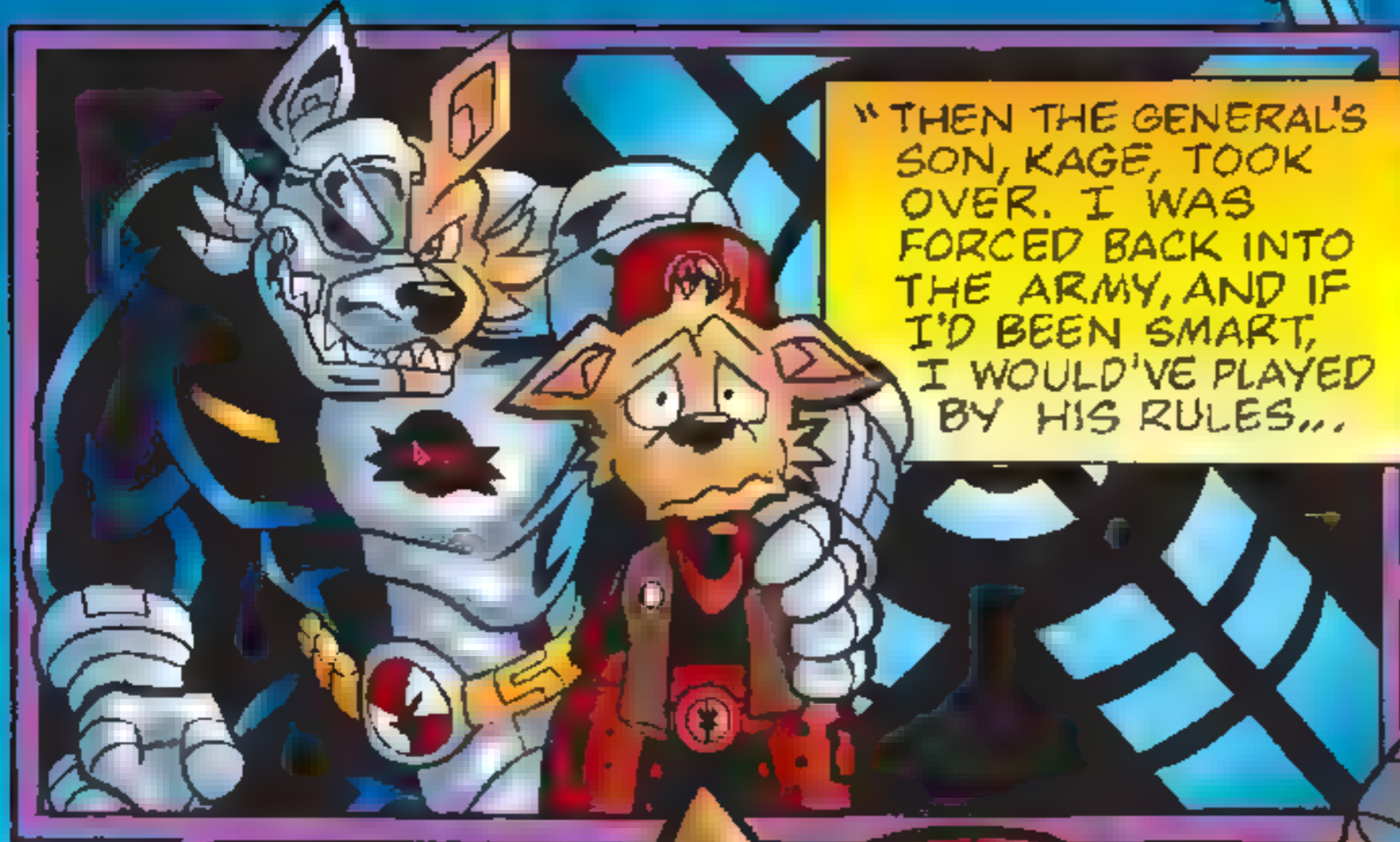


I NEVER LIKED THE ARMY, WHEN WE WERE SEALED OFF IN THAT ZONE, I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE...



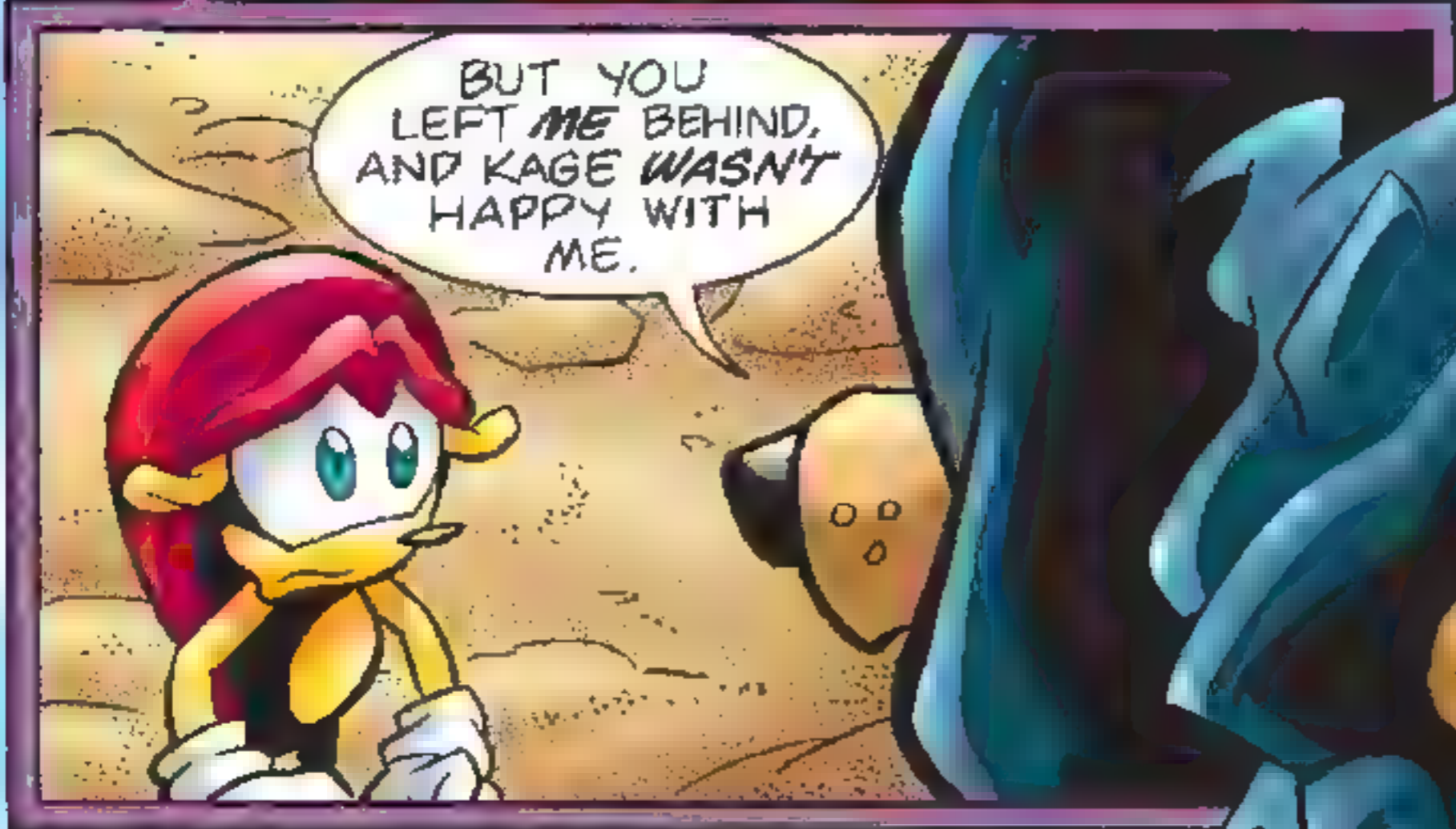
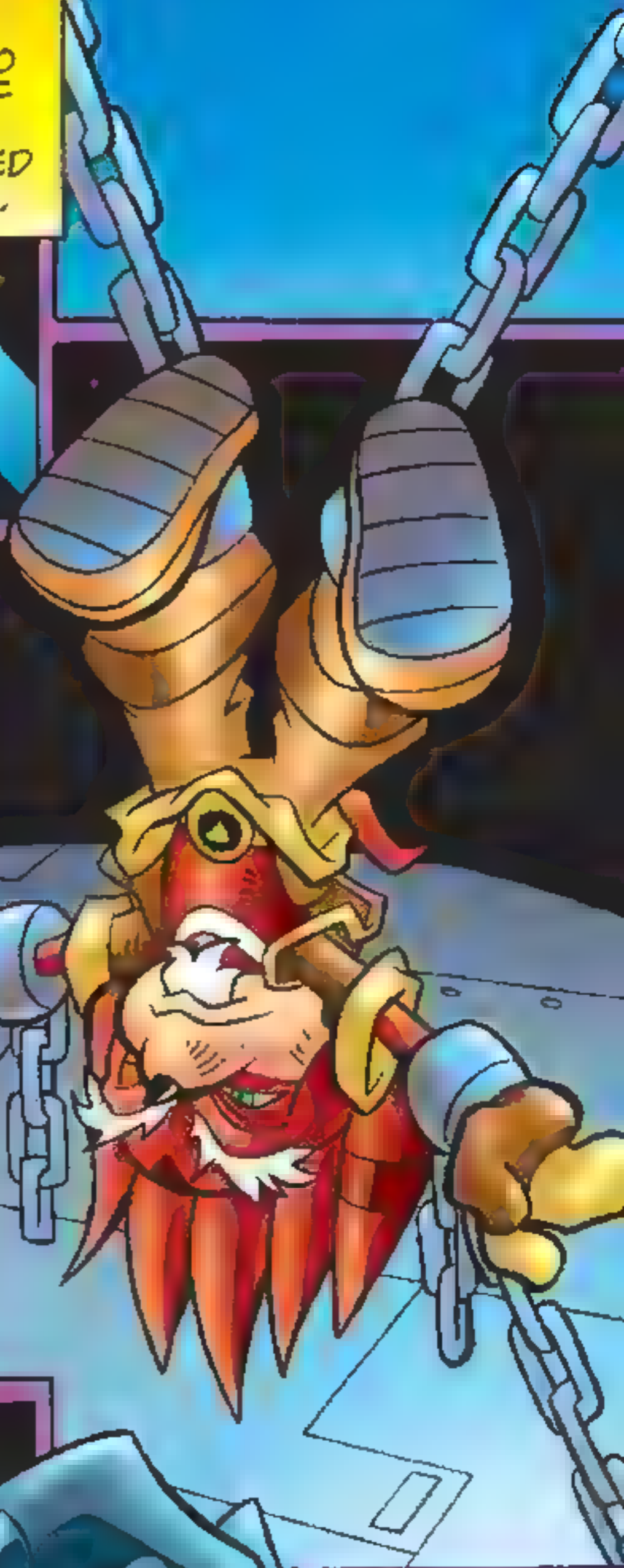
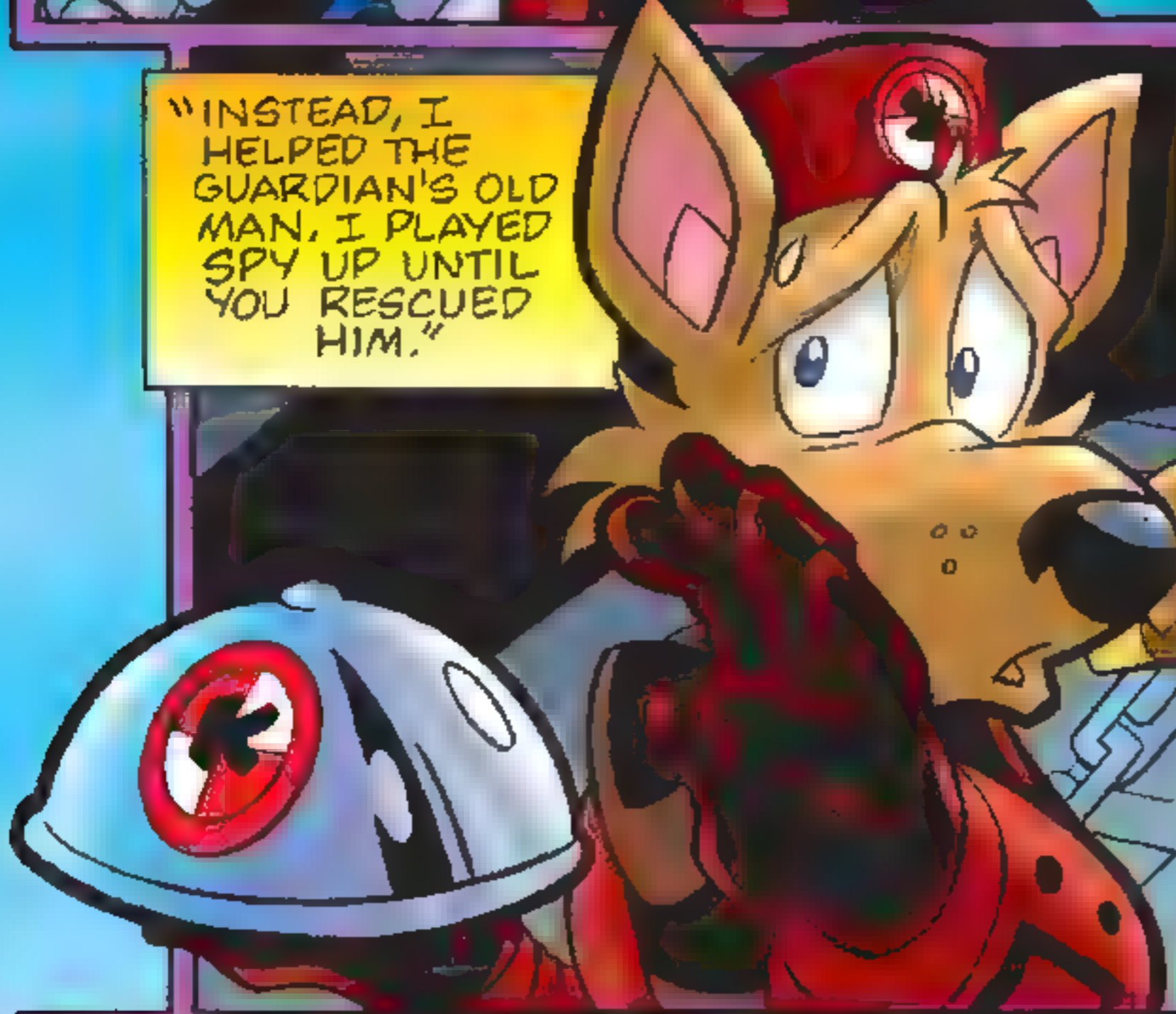
I LOVED MY GIG AS A CABBIE, I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING EXCITING UNTIL I RAN INTO YOUR CREW...

51782



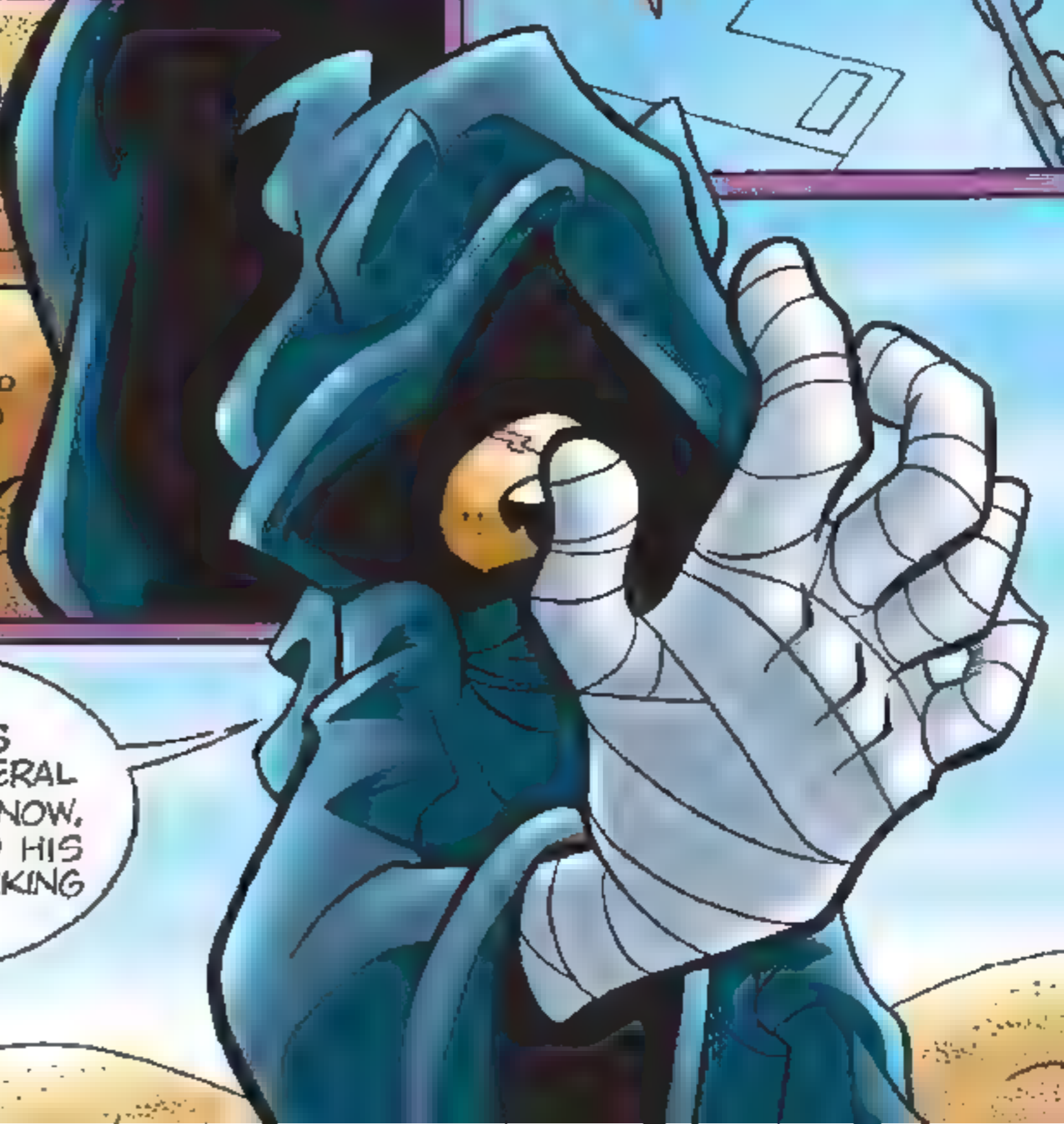
"THEN THE GENERAL'S SON, KAGE, TOOK OVER. I WAS FORCED BACK INTO THE ARMY, AND IF I'D BEEN SMART, I WOULD'VE PLAYED BY HIS RULES..."

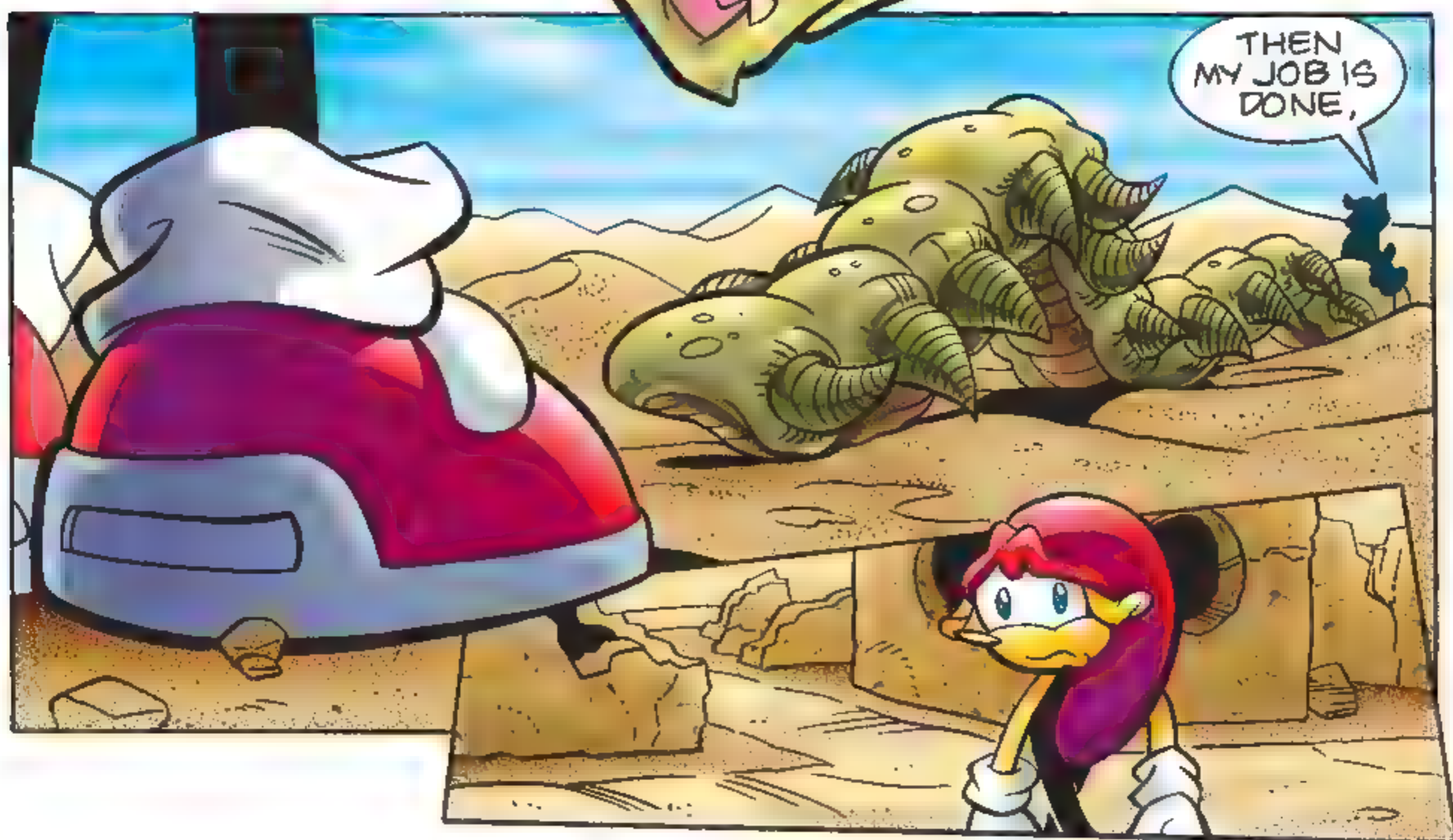
"INSTEAD, I HELPED THE GUARDIAN'S OLD MAN. I PLAYED SPY UP UNTIL YOU RESCUED HIM."

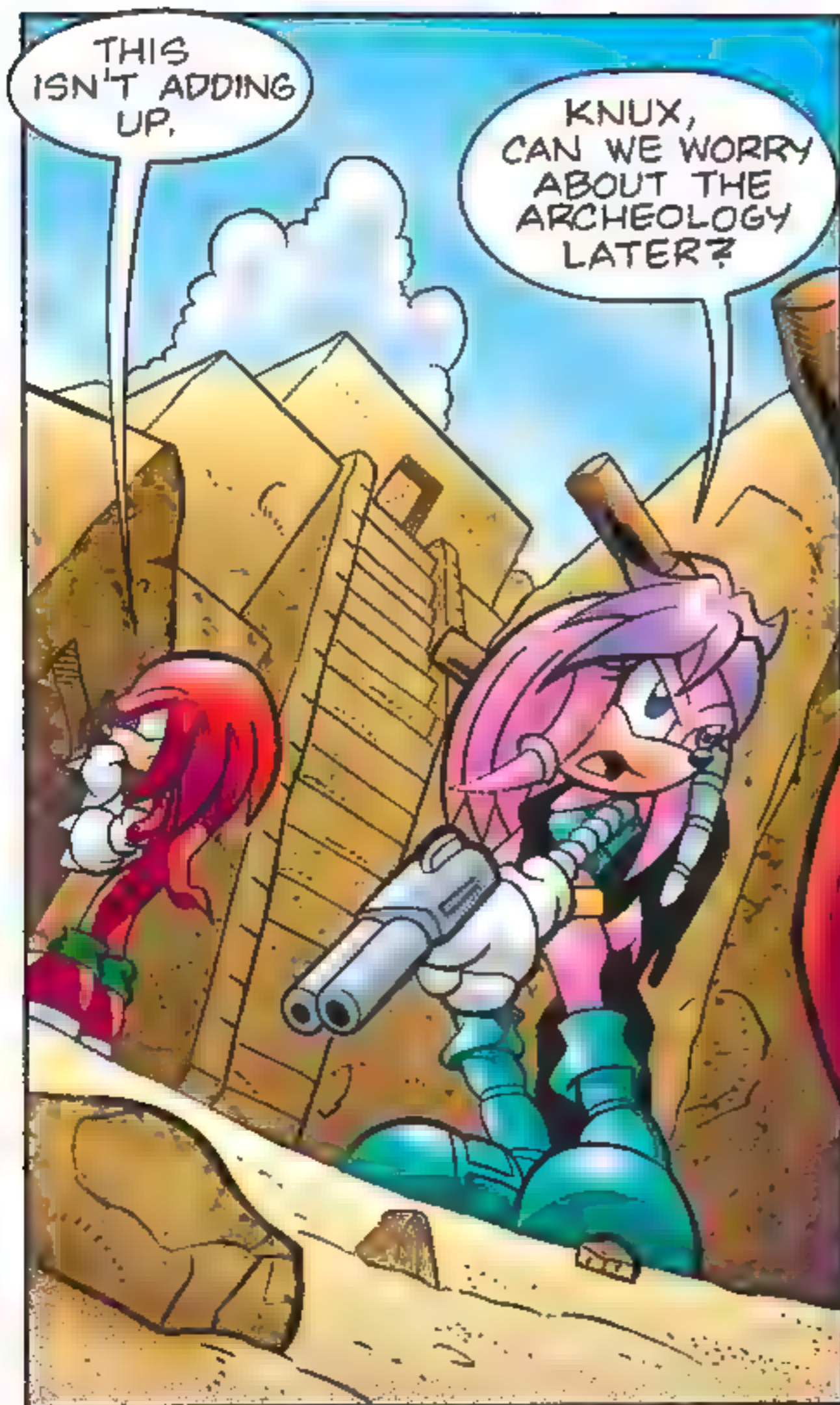


BUT YOU LEFT *ME* BEHIND, AND KAGE *WASN'T* HAPPY WITH ME.

BUT THEN ENERJAK TOSSED US OUT HERE. THE GENERAL TAKES CARE OF US NOW, CALLS ME A HERO TO HIS CAUSE, SO I'M STICKING WITH HIM.

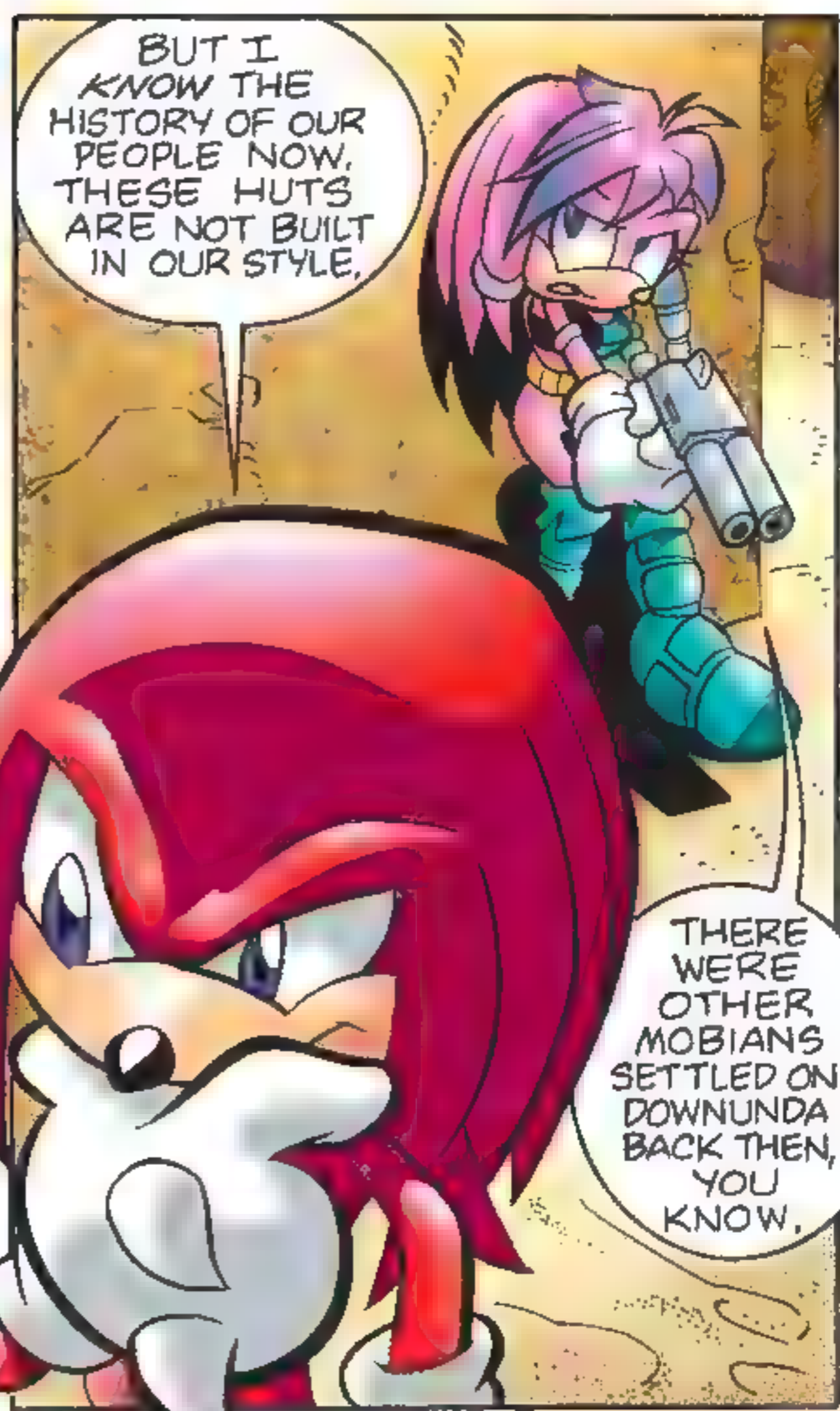






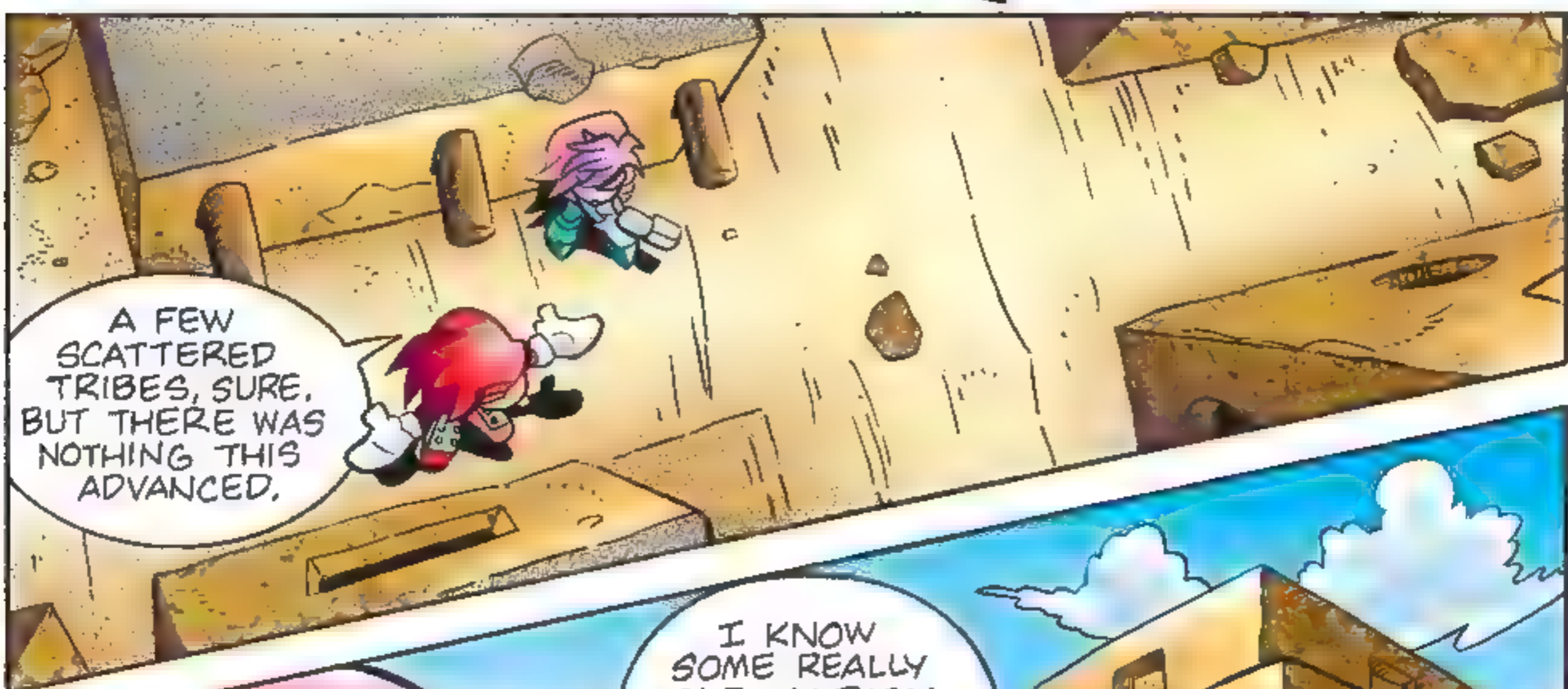
THIS ISN'T ADDING UP.

KNUX, CAN WE WORRY ABOUT THE ARCHEOLOGY LATER?



BUT I KNOW THE HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE NOW, THESE HUTS ARE NOT BUILT IN OUR STYLE.

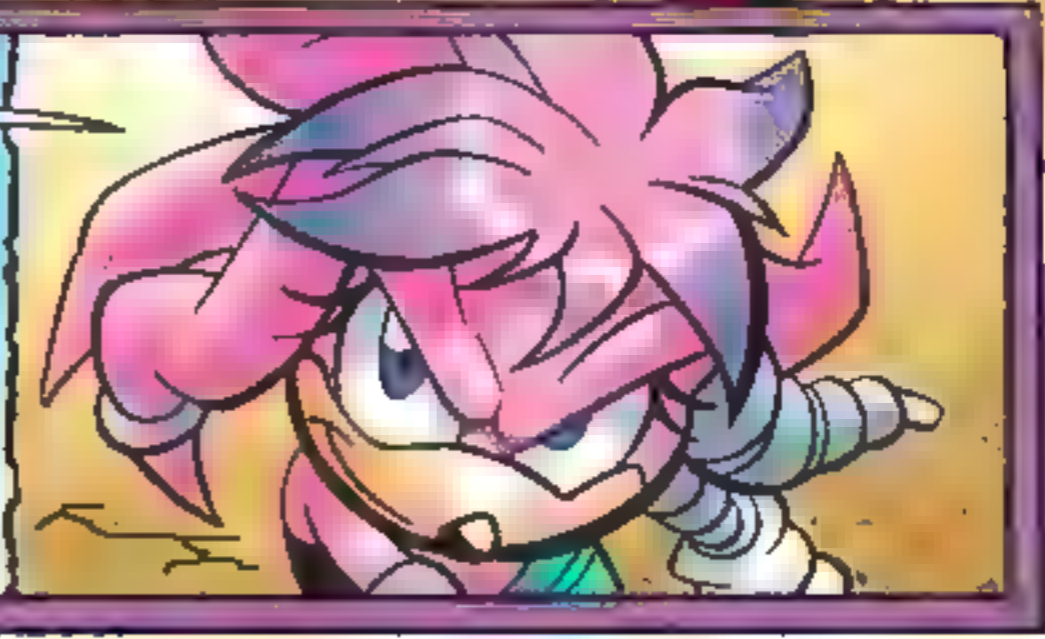
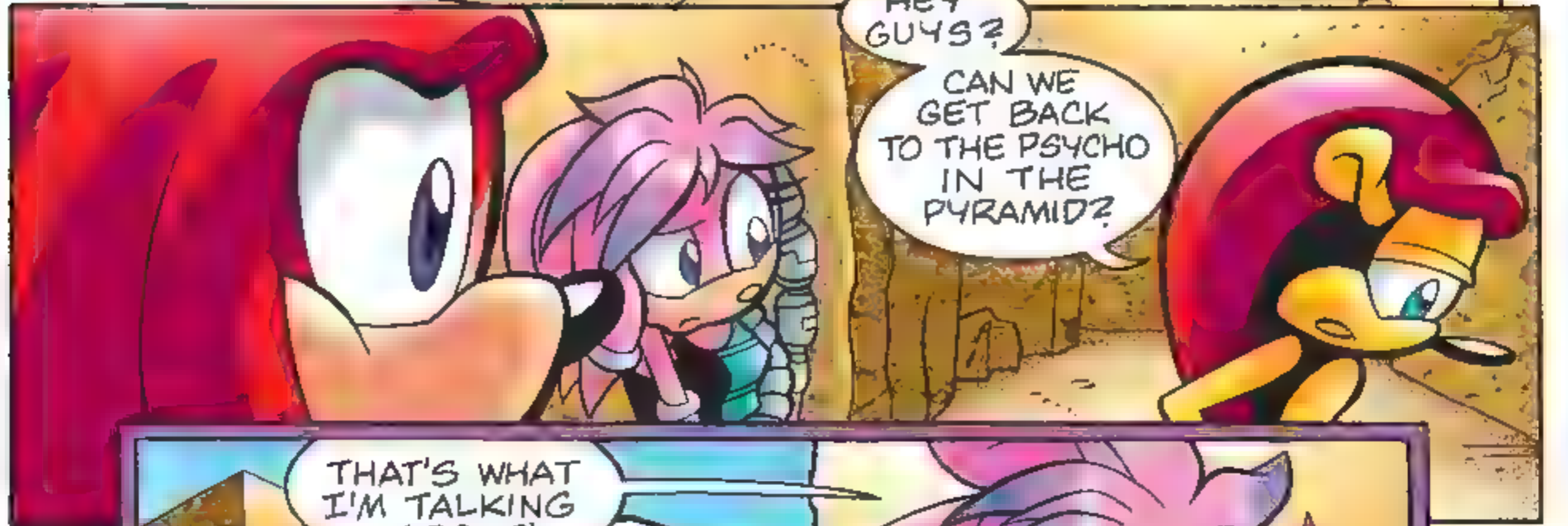
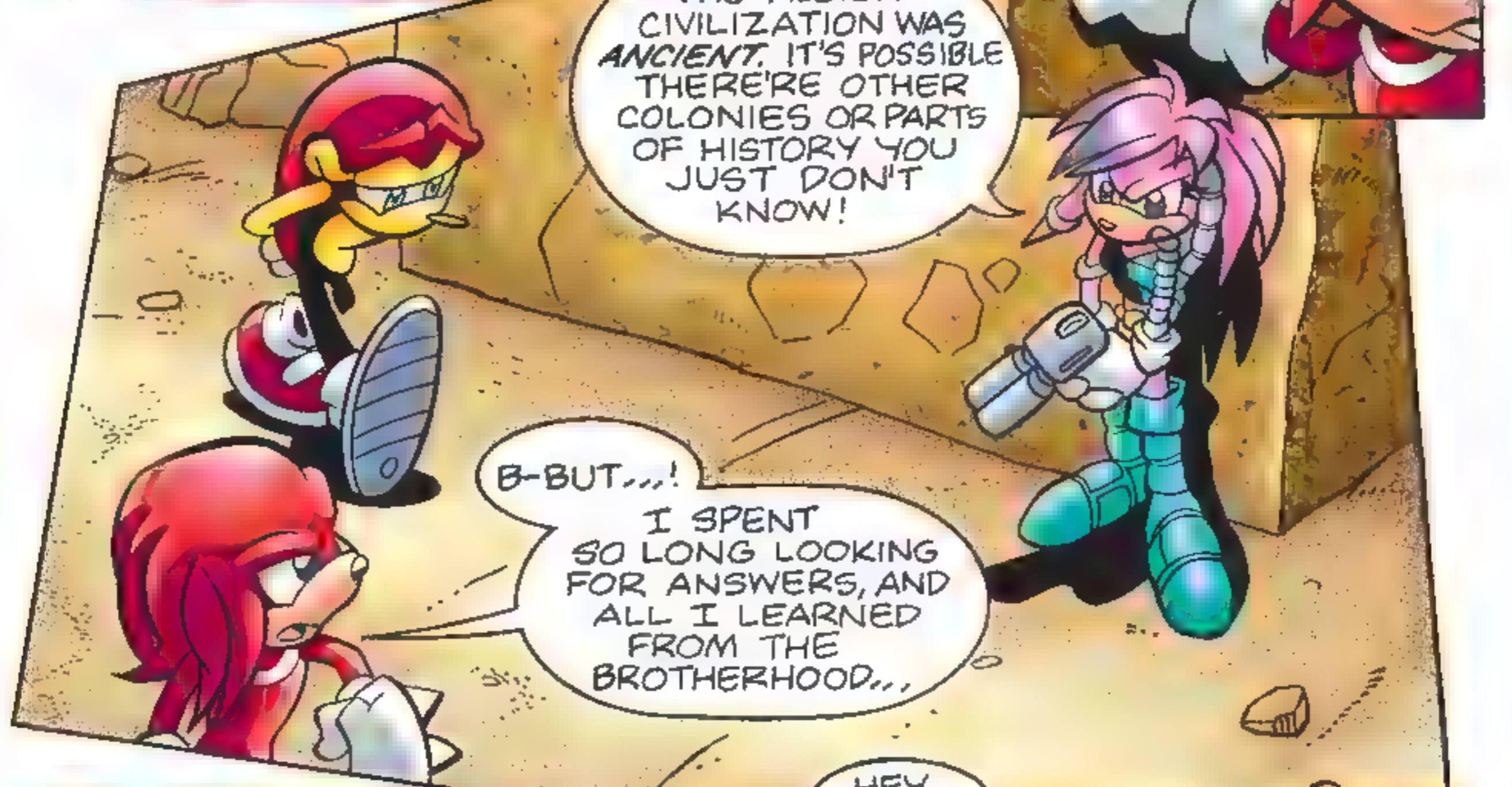
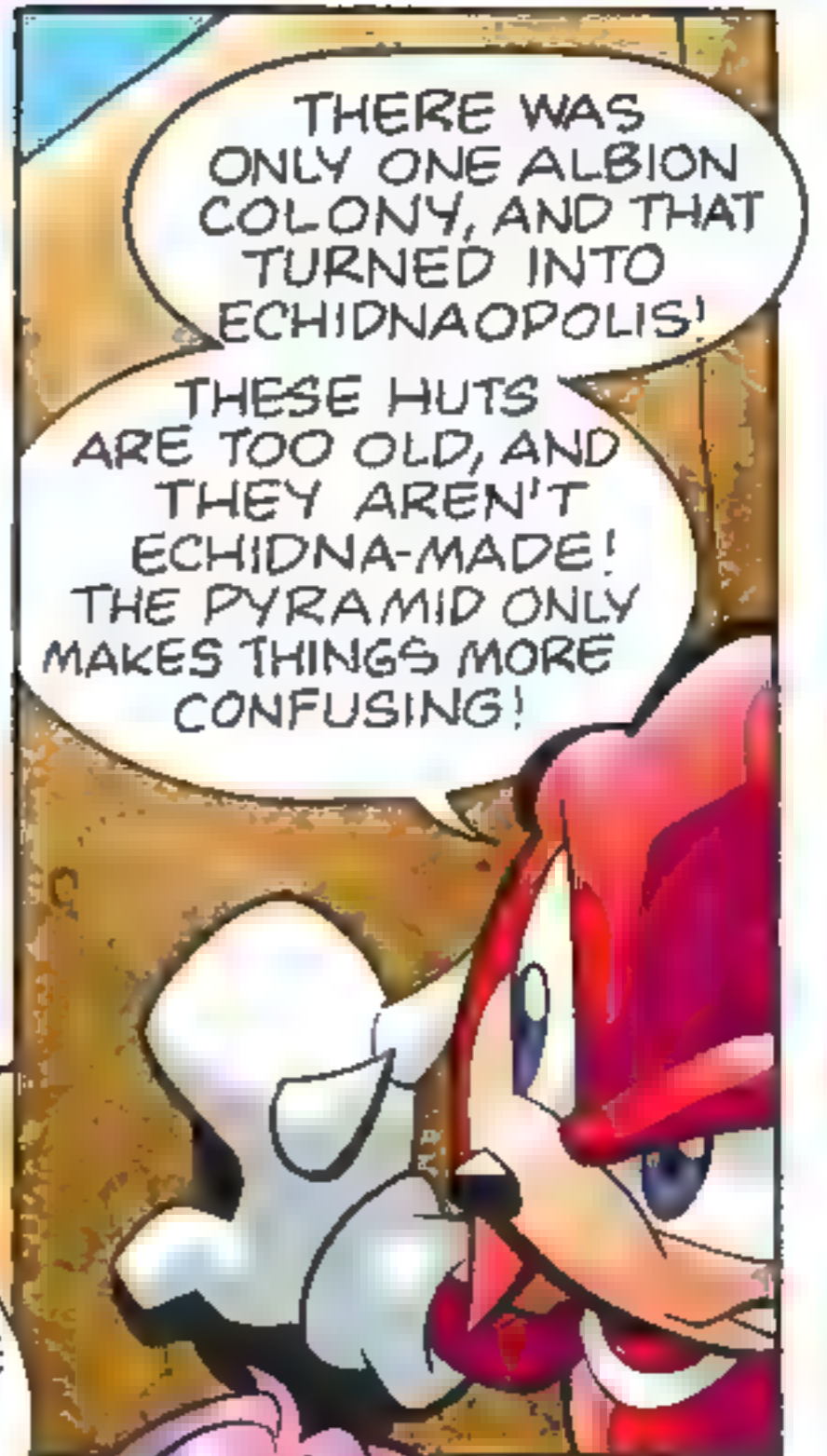
THERE WERE OTHER MOBIANS SETTLED ON DOWNUNDA BACK THEN, YOU KNOW.



A FEW SCATTERED TRIBES, SURE, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING THIS ADVANCED.

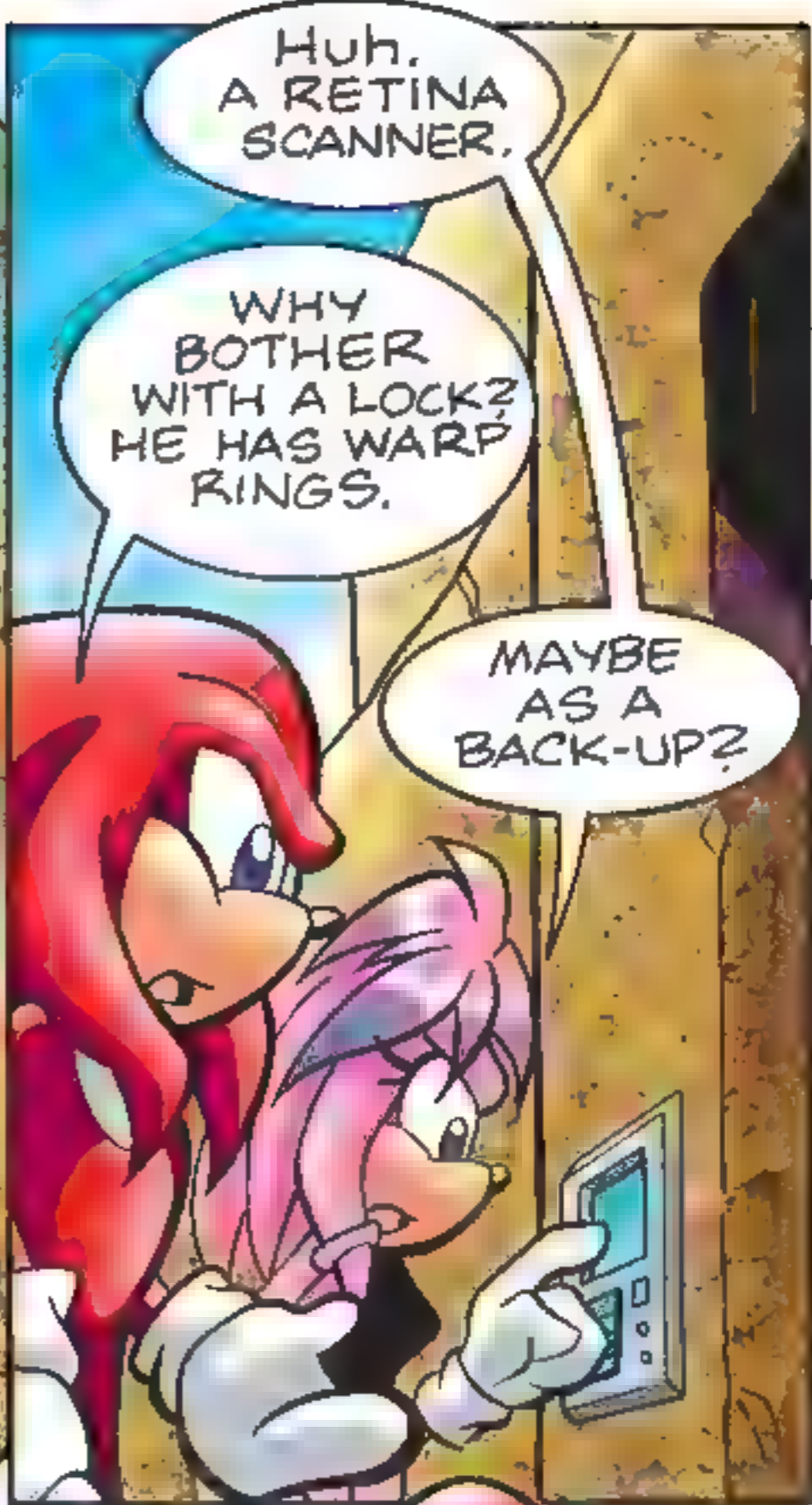


I KNOW SOME REALLY OLD ALBION ARCHITECTURE LOOKED LIKE THAT PYRAMID, BUT...





...SO DO WE KNOCK OR WHAT?



HUH, A RETINA SCANNER.

WHY BOTHER WITH A LOCK? HE HAS WARP RINGS.

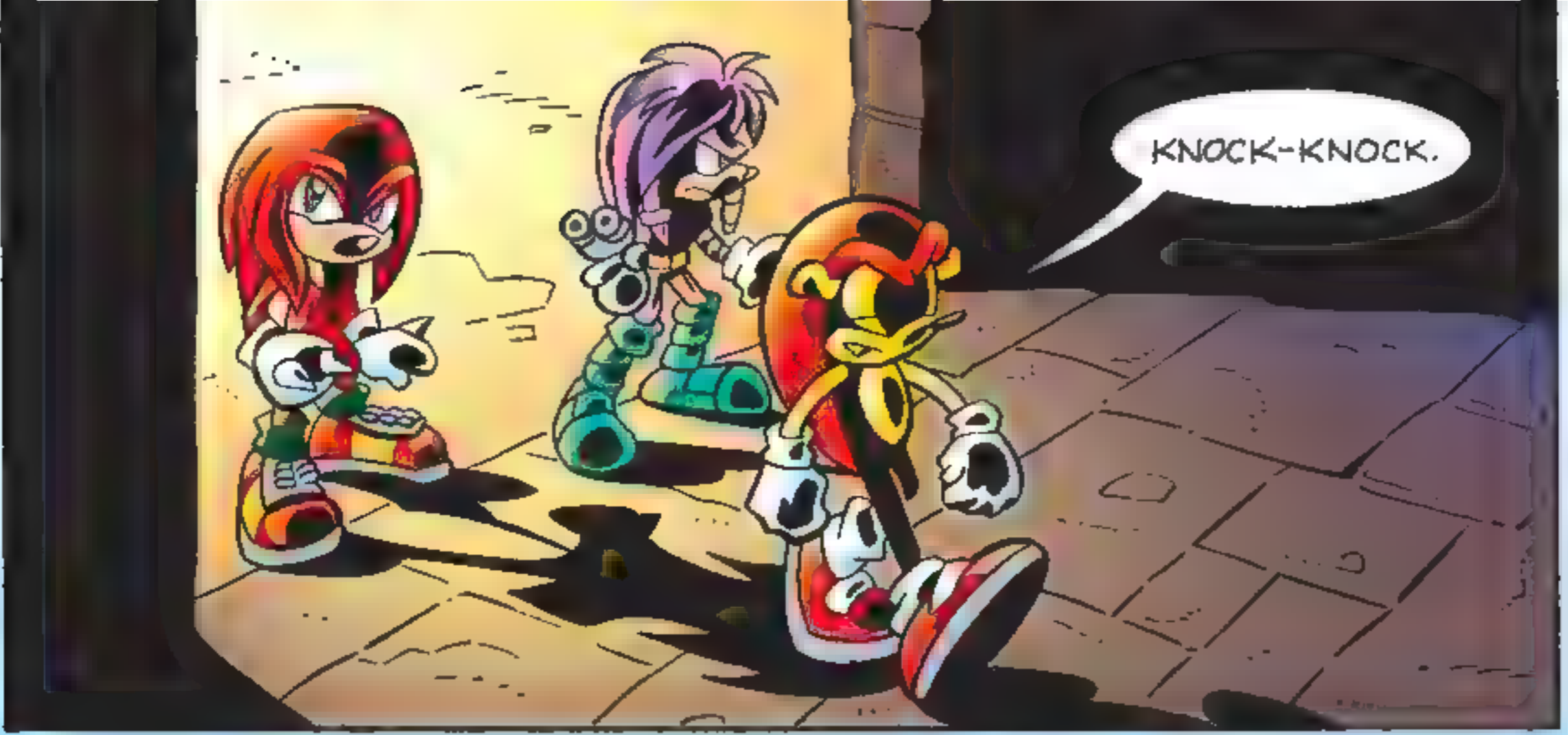
MAYBE AS A BACK-UP?



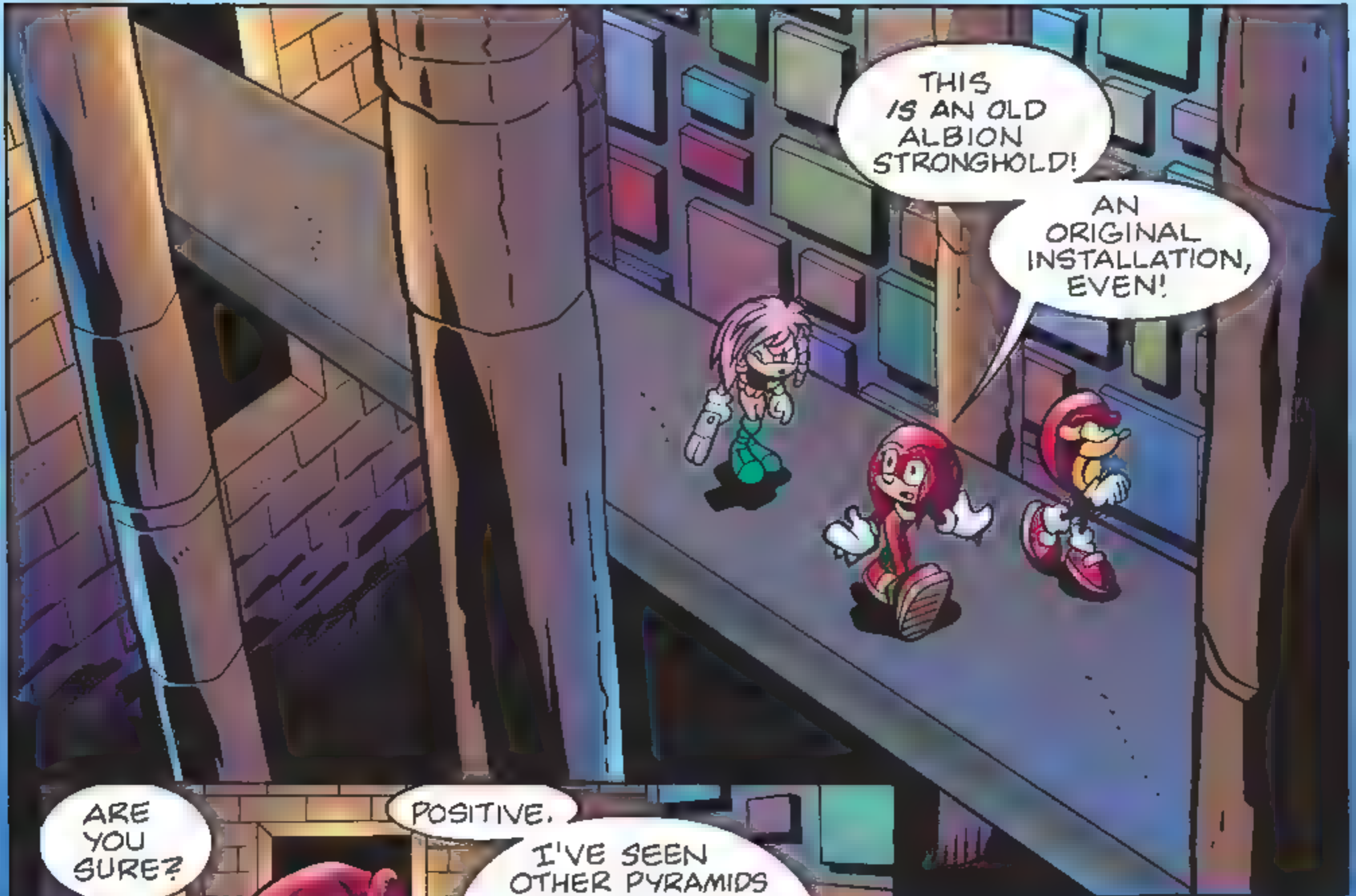
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HACK IT IF I CAN FIND A WAY TO INTERFACE WITH IT...

OR WE CAN TRY "KNOCKING".

THOO



KNOCK-KNOCK.



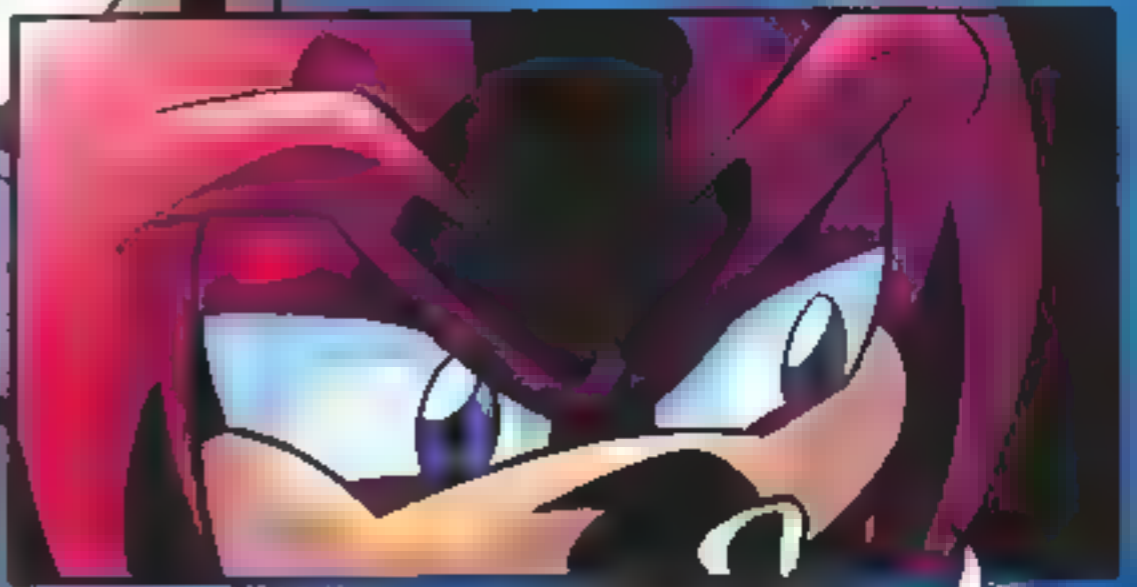
THIS IS AN OLD ALBION STRONGHOLD!

AN ORIGINAL INSTALLATION, EVEN!

ARE YOU SURE?

POSITIVE.

I'VE SEEN OTHER PYRAMIDS LIKE THIS* BUT I ALWAYS ASSUMED THEY WERE FROM THE ECHIDNAOPOLIS COLONY.

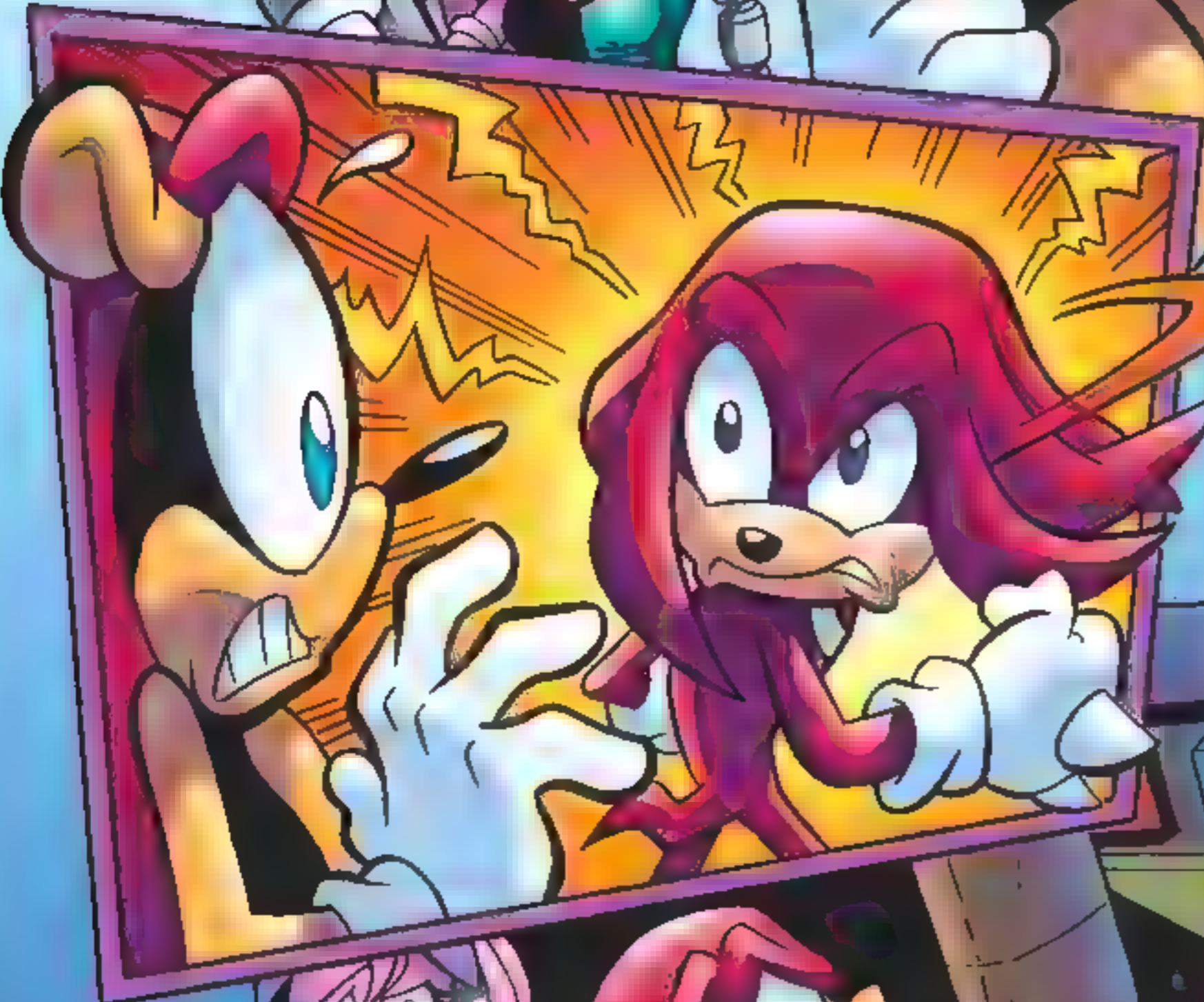


WHY WOULD THEY HAVE A RESEARCH-FORTRESS BUILT IN THE MIDDLE OF A PRIMITIVE DOWNUNDA SETTLEMENT?

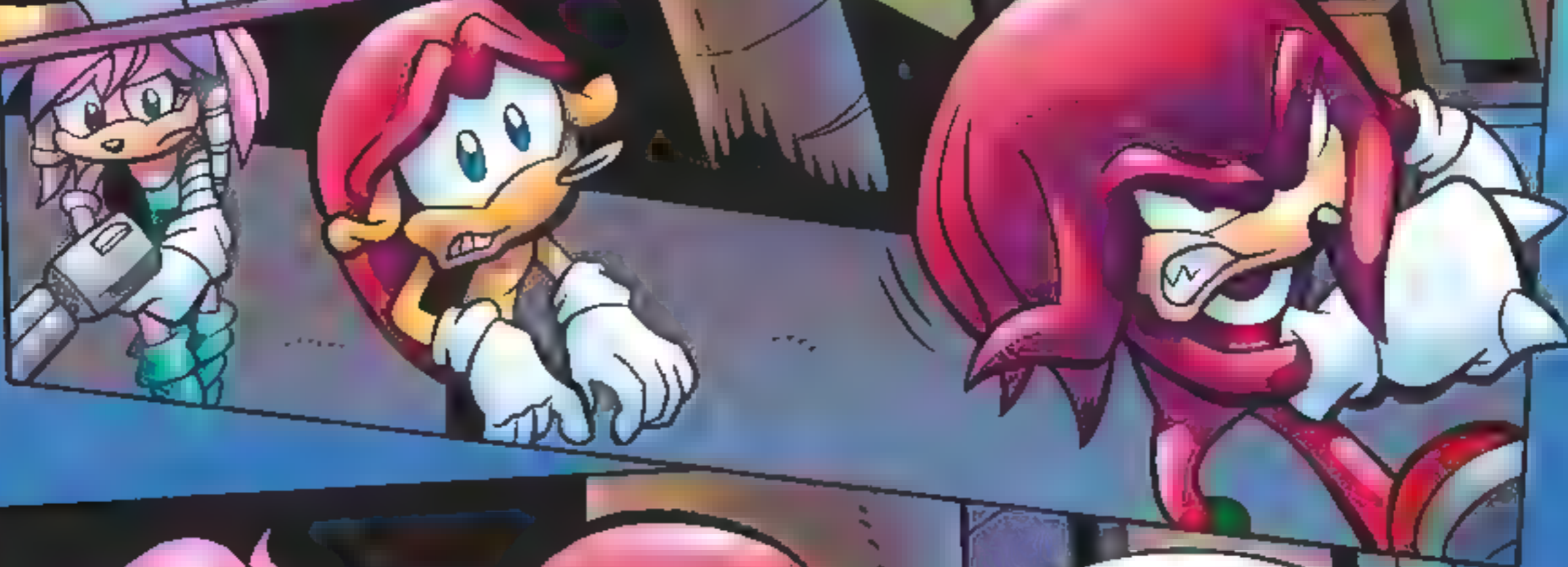
* AND YOU CAN, TOO, IN SONIC SELECT VOL. 1!

GUYS!
FINITEVUS!
FOCUS!

GEE, KNUX,
I THOUGHT
THAT AFTER YOU
HOOKED UP
WITH ALL YOUR
ANCESTORS
YOU GOT ALL
YOUR ANSWERS
ABOUT ECHIDNA
HISTORY.



APPARENTLY
SOMEONE'S *STILL*
KEEPING SECRETS
FROM ME.



WOW,
I'M NOT DOING
TOO WELL
TODAY.



REMEMBER,
HE'S A HOT-HEAD,
LET'S KEEP
MOVING.

MEANWHILE--
SHRINE ISLE

TH-TH-TH-THERE'S
T-T-T-TOO
M-M-M-MANY...!

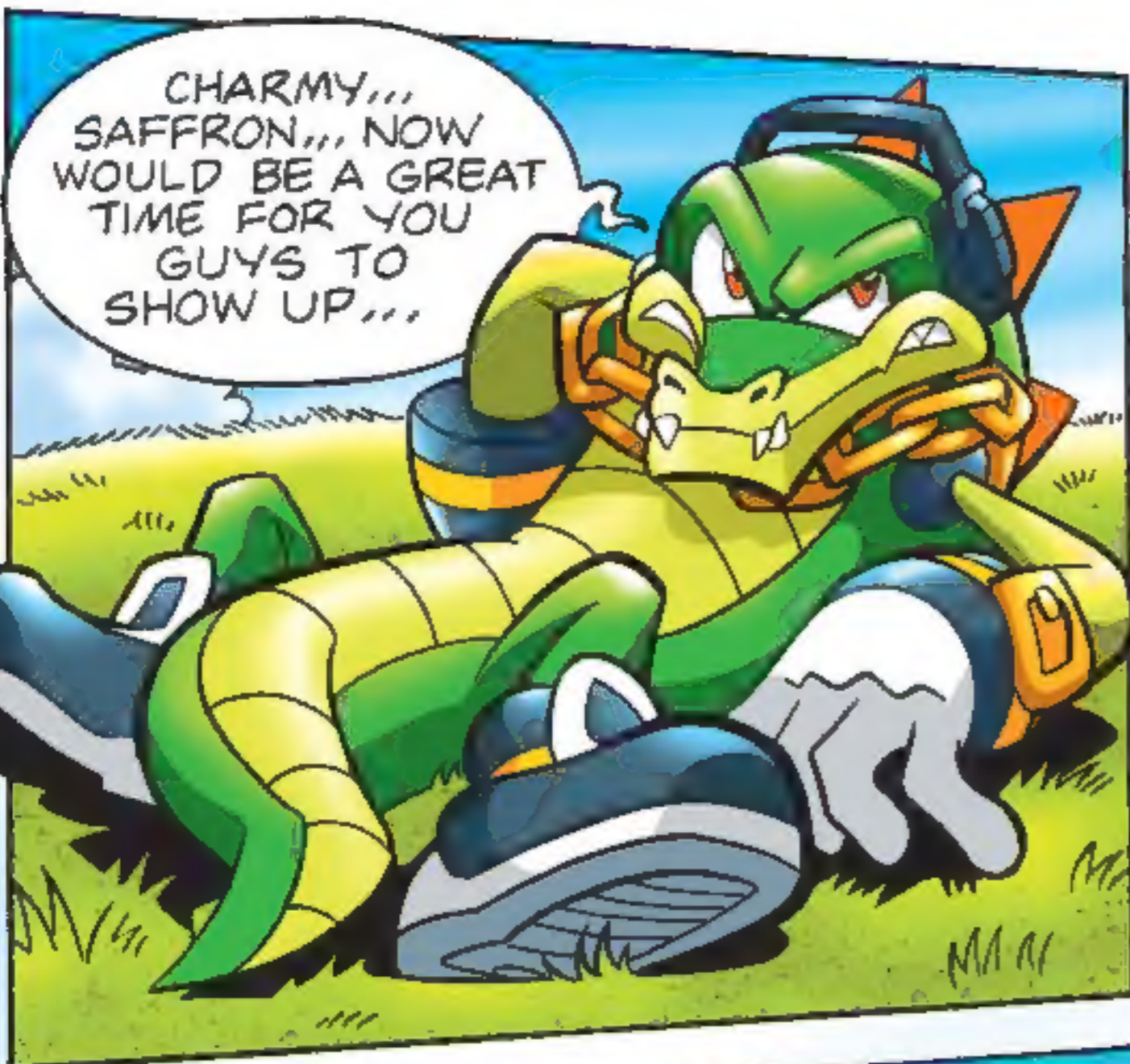
KEEP IT
TOGETHER,
KID!

AAH!

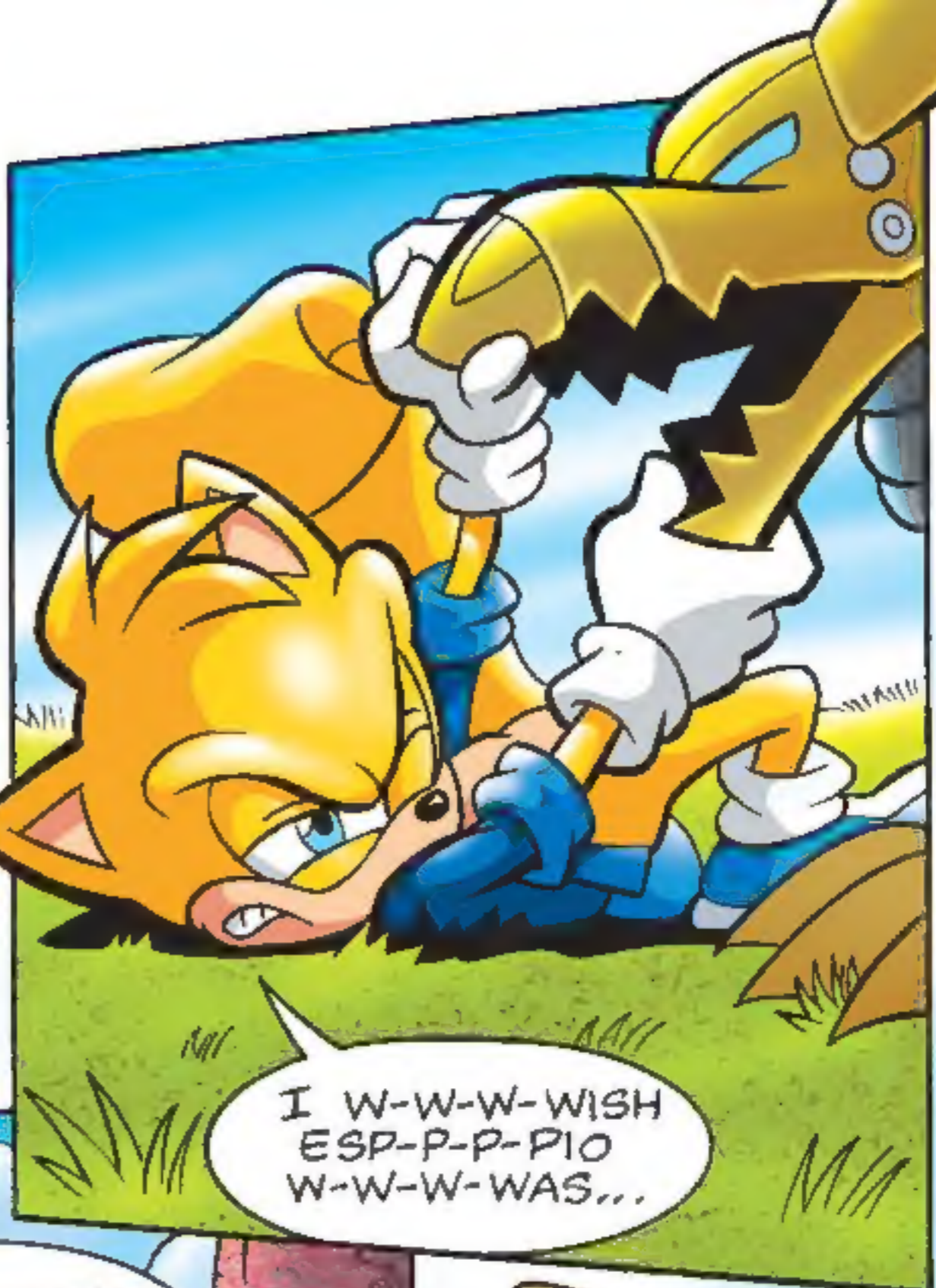
WHAP

GRRK!





CHARMY...
SAFFRON... NOW
WOULD BE A GREAT
TIME FOR YOU
GUYS TO
SHOW UP...



I W-W-W-WISH
ESP-P-P-PIO
W-W-W-WAS...

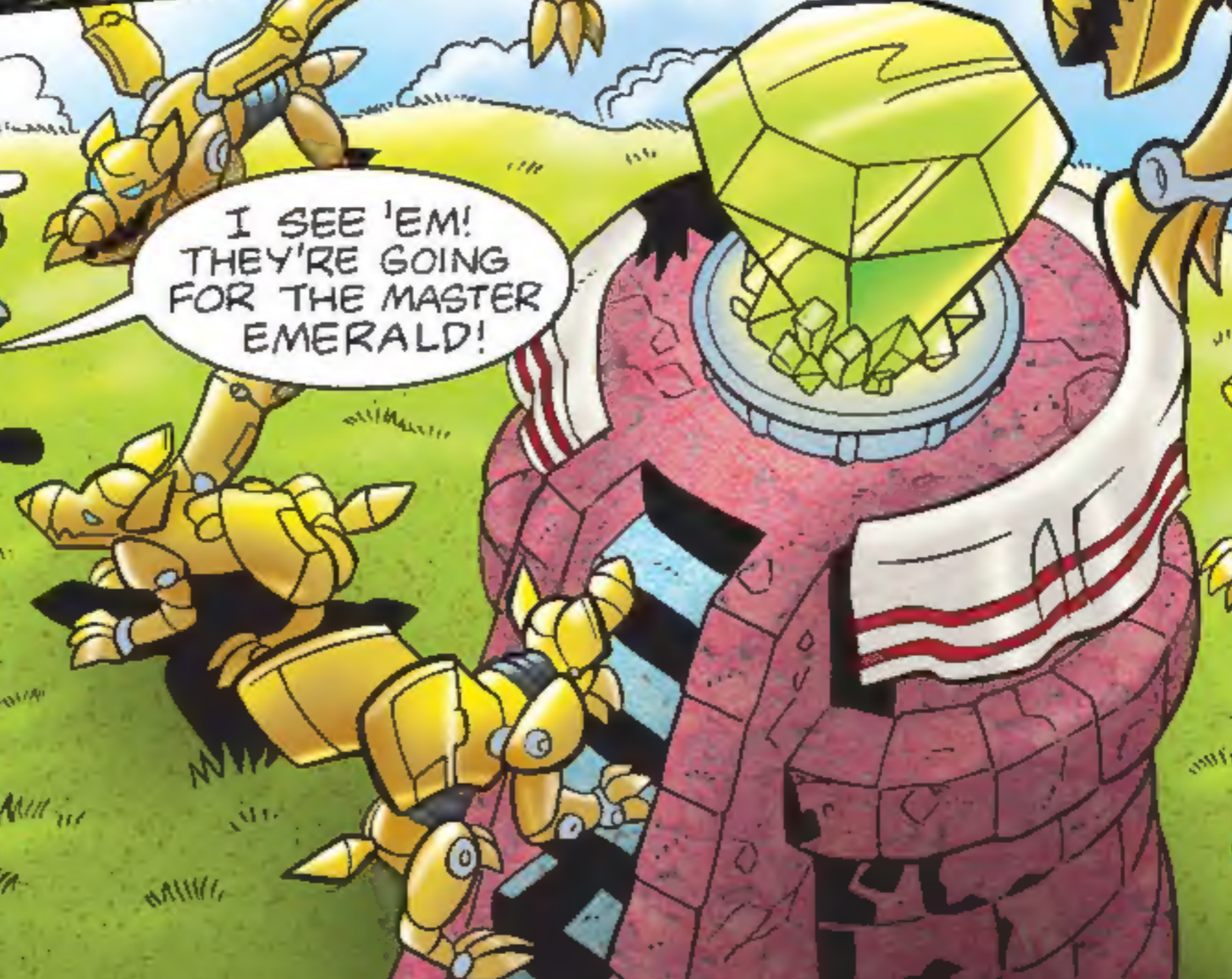


WE DON'T
NEED THAT
TRAITOR!

W-W-W-W-WE
N-NEED
S-S-S-S-SOMEBOY!



TH-TH-TH-TH--!



I SEE 'EM!
THEY'RE GOING
FOR THE MASTER
EMERALD!



SANDOPOLIS--
MYSTERIOUS
PYRAMID

NOT
SO
FAST!

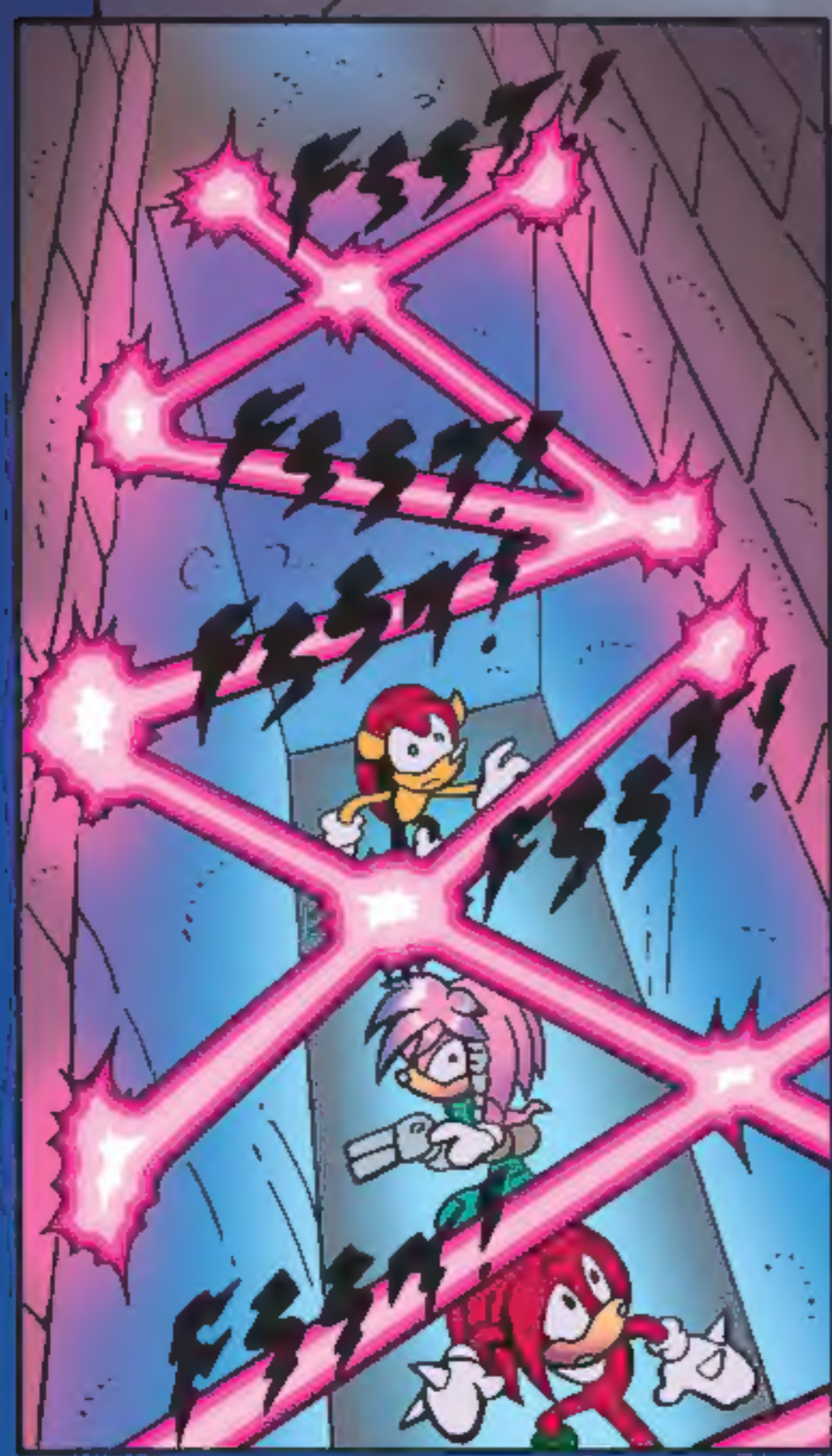
DO
YOU WANT
ME TO HURRY
UP OR
SLOW
DOWN?

MAKE
UP YOUR
MIND!




HURRY, YES,
BUT DO IT
CAUTIOUSL--

EEEP!



SHANK

YOW!



THE WALLS
ARE CLOSING
IN!

WE'RE
TRAPPED!

NOT
FOR LONG,
I WANT
ANSWERS!

You have to escape alive first,
Knuckles!

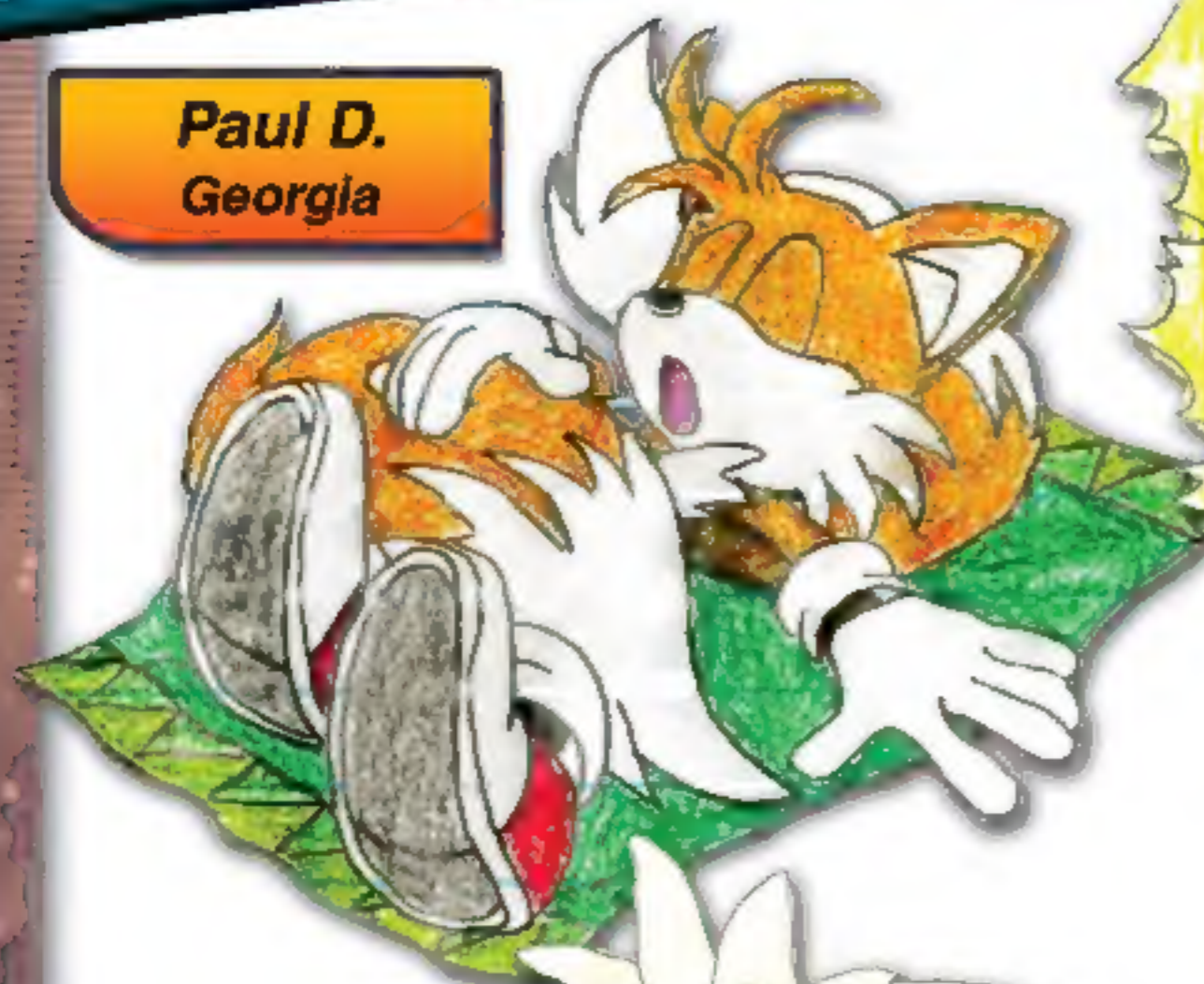
And what about Vector and Ray
against the robot horde?

The mysteries deepen and the
stakes are raised next time in

**SONIC
UNIVERSE!**



**Paul D.
Georgia**



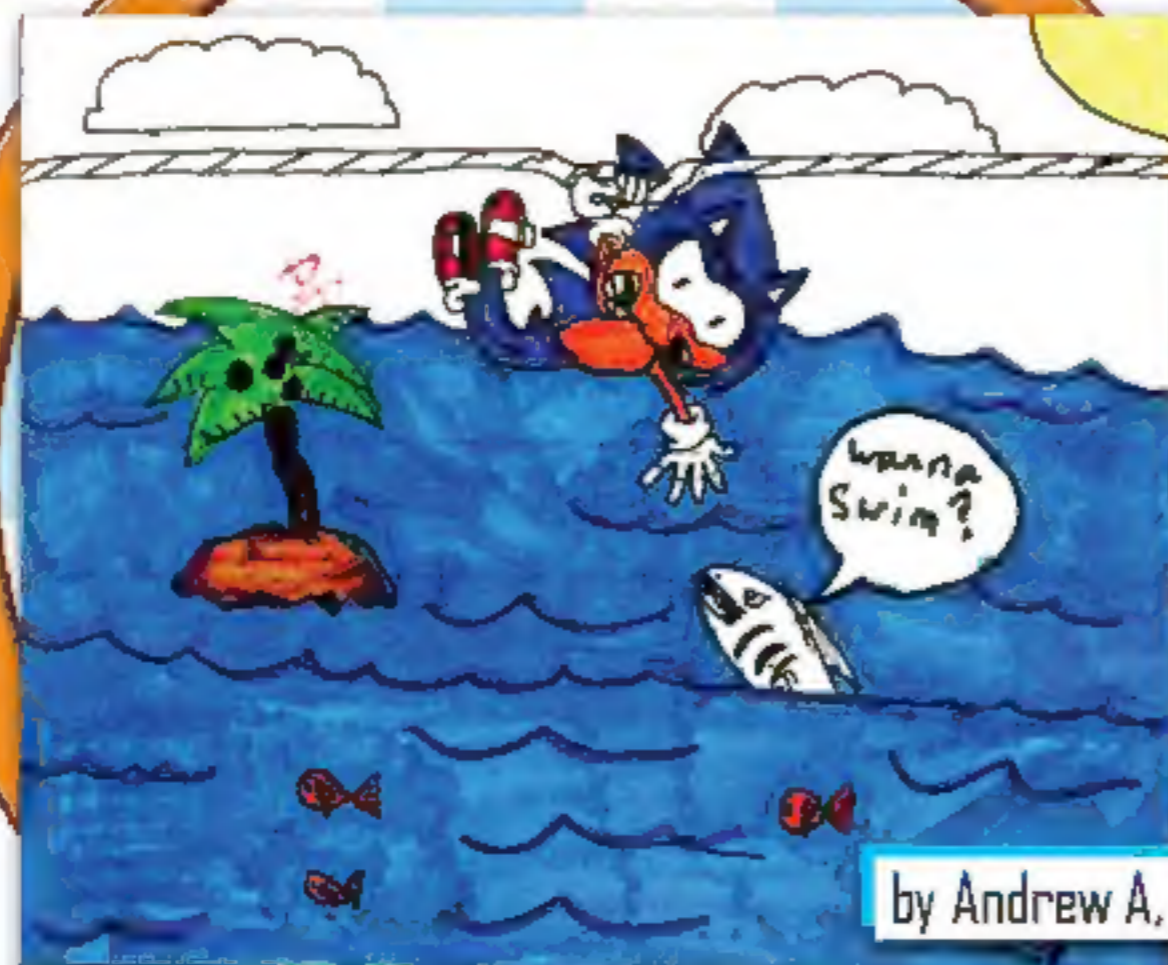
**Maddie T.
Indiana**



**Cameran K.
California**



FAN FUNNIES!



by Andrew A. from California

HANG IN THERE SONIC!

HEY, KIDS!

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WANNA WRITE YOUR OWN
HILARIOUS SONIC COMIC STRIPS?? SEND
YOUR GUT-BUSTING SONIC STRIP TO:

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